



£1,000 and items donated to help rebuild play area

COMMUNITY AIDS FIRE-HIT NURSERY

Report by Marion Brennan

SUPPORTERS have rallied around an arson-hit nursery to raise £1,000 within days of yobs burning playground equipment.

Staff and parents were distraught after vandals caused a blaze which destroyed benches and outdoor toys used by small children, just months after the play area at Little Explorers Day Nursery in Cradley Heath had a £5,000 revamp.



Nursery worker Karen Standen with the debris

Destroyed items included a bouncy castle which had been donated to the St Anne's Road nursery the previous day. Flames spread across the play garden in the early hours last Thursday but crews were able to prevent the blaze engulfing the nearby nursery kitchen. Staff arriving for work the next day were shocked but pitched in to help clear up the mess.

Damaged

Police confirmed that they are treating the fire as arson. The shed, eight tricycles, picnic tables, benches, chairs and outdoor toys were destroyed in the fire. Windows, shutters and outside lights were also damaged.

Nursery owner Kelly Shaw, aged 36, who launched the nursery five years ago, said the play area had undergone a major £5,000 revamp just last year.

She said: "I'm gutted anyone would want to target a nursery of all places."

A Justgiving page - www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/littleexplorers - has been set up to raise money to replace damaged items. It surpassed its £500 target in hours and had hit the £1,000 mark by yesterday (Wednesday). Artificial turf has also been donated.

Ms Shaw said: "The response from the community has been totally overwhelming."

EX-ENGINEER MAYOR AIMS TO BUILD NEW LINKS



New Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor, and his wife of more than 60 years Winifred, are the borough's first citizens

FORMER engineer Councillor Alan Taylor is looking forward to forging new community links in his role as Mayor of Dudley.

Councillor Taylor, who has represented Halesowen South ward for 14 years, served as deputy mayor in 2017/18 and took over the role of Mayor on Thursday. Councillor Taylor, and his wife of more than 60 years Winifred, will be the borough's first citizens.

He trained as an engineer in the fastener industry, before moving into the trailer industry. He served as a councillor on Halesowen Borough Council in the 1970s. They have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Councillor Taylor has chosen three local charities to support during his year in office, one based in his home town of Halesowen. They are Headway Black Country, special-

ising in supporting people with an acquired brain injury; White House Cancer Support which supports people with cancer, their families and friends; and The Hope Centre, Halesowen, a charity with a Christian ethos which provides practical and emotional support.

Councillor Taylor said: "It's a real honour to be chosen to serve as Mayor and it's a role Win and I feel privileged to take on."

PLANNING

Bid to save fields from development

A CAMPAIGN has been launched opposing a proposal for a designer outlet shopping centre in Oldbury.

A group opposed to the development of Lion Farm playing fields picketed a meeting at Sandwell Council this week. They want to halt a proposal for a scheme that developers say could create 2,000 jobs.

No application has yet been submitted for the 200,000sq ft development on council-owned land close to Junction 2 of the M5. But one of the campaigners, Mike Siviter, of Newbury Lane, said: "I thought councils were supposed to be redeveloping brownfield sites not green spaces."

POLICE

Arrests amid town centre crimewave

DUDLEY town centre has seen a spike in crime over the last fortnight, police have revealed. The area has been hit by an increasing number of offences.

A West Midlands Police spokesperson said: "We have seen an increase in offenders targeting Dudley town centre in the last couple of weeks. Some focused activities to arrest and charge those responsible has resulted in several arrests."

POLITICS

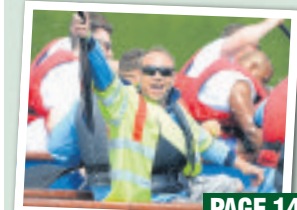
I stand with you, minister tells police

HOME Secretary Sajid Javid has pledged to ensure police officers have the resources they need in his maiden speech to the Police Federation.

The Bromsgrove MP, whose brother is a chief superintendent in West Midlands Police, told officers in Birmingham: "For those of you who stand on the front line, be in no doubt that I will be standing with you."

INSIDE

DRAGON BOATS RACE ACTION



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Family pay tribute to collision victim



Andrew Holdaway

THE heartbroken family of Stourbridge road accident victim Andrew Holdaway have paid tribute to him following his death in hospital, seven days after being seriously injured in a crash in his classic car.

Police are trying to find the occupants of the other vehicle involved in the collision, a blue Ford Mondeo, who fled the scene.

Mr Holdaway, aged 62, from Oldswinford, suffered serious injuries in the accident in Norton Road, at the junction with Harringay Drive in Stourbridge, on Bank Holiday Monday and died in

hospital a week later. His family said his death has left 'a gaping hole' in their hearts that would never be filled.

A statement said: "Beyond all reasonable expectations, dad held on for seven whole days. The professionalism of all of the healthcare experts and first responders gave us as a family the opportunity to spend time with my dad we would never otherwise have had.

"We are heartbroken and a gaping hole has been created in all of our hearts that will never be filled. But the compassion and love we have received from hundreds of people known and un-

known to us have helped hold us strong and retain faith in humanity, even amongst the despair."

The crash took place at around 4.20pm on May 7, when the car Mr Holdaway was driving was involved in a collision with the Mondeo.

West Midlands Police officers have reissued their appeal for information to help trace the three occupants of the Mondeo. Sergeant Alan Hands said: "Three men were spotted fleeing the scene. They ran off along Beech Road into the playing fields that lead to Mary Stevens Park."

War heroes selected for the Invictus Games

INSPIRATIONAL war heroes from the Black Country have been chosen to take part in this year's Invictus Games.

Created by Prince Harry, the Invictus Games is an international adaptive multi-sport event in which wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and associated veterans can take part.

The team of 72 competitors selected to represent the UK at this year's competition in Australia was unveiled earlier this week at Horse Guards Parade.



Dave Watson

The group were joined by Prime Minister Theresa May, who wished them luck for the Games in October.

Dave Watson, from Halesowen, will compete in archery, athletics and rowing.

Dave lost both his legs and his right forearm when he stepped on an improvised explosive device while serving with the Scots Dragoon Guards in Afghanistan in 2010.

He said: "Sydney 2018 is a chance to prove that there is no limit and that being an amputee is not the end of my sporting journey.

"The Invictus Games gives you the power to believe in yourself."

David trains twice a week with a British Athletics coach. He took part in last year's games in Toronto and came home to Romsley with a gold for discus and bronze medal in the shot.

Also taking part will be Karl Hinett, from Tipton, who was petrol-bombed in Iraq in 2005, and Lance Corporal Clive Smith, from Walsall, given bionic legs after an explosion in Afghanistan, who plays wheelchair rugby.

Thousands enjoy night at the museum



The traction engine crew ready for the Red by Night event at the Black Country Living Museum

THOUSANDS of people flocked to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley for the first of its summer after-hours events of the year.

The museum on Tipton Road welcomed more than 2,000 people to its Red by Night event, when it was open until 10.30pm.

Visitors were able to experience

the open-air museum in all its glory after the sun had set with fire jugglers, traction engines and performers in the museum's 26 acres.

The atmospheric evening came as part of the museum's Industrial Might weekend which saw newly restored areas open, including the Anchor Forge with its steam ham-

mer. Events coordinator Jane Allcock said: "Red by Night is showing the roots of where we came from and the really big part the Black Country played in the industrial revolution."

For more on future events visit www.bclm.co.uk/events or call 0121 5579643.

Ambulance HQ staff get to see TV award



Ambulance worker Zoe with the BAFTA

AMBULANCE staff got the chance to get their hands on the BAFTA award won by the West Midlands service.

The BBC TV show Ambulance, which follows staff responding to calls across the region, picked up the award for Best Factual Series at the awards ceremony in London last week. The famous trophy was taken to the Emergency Operations Centre in Brierley Hill for staff to see.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said on Twitter: "We had a few rather excited staff in our Emergency Operations Centre in Brierley Hill when we took a BAFTA around to show some of the people who made #Ambulance so successful."

BBC TV gangster drama, Peaky Blinders, part made at the Black Country Living Museum, won Best Drama Series.

Armed raid on petrol station

THIEVES threatened staff with a hand gun during a robbery at a service station near Stourbridge.

Two men entered the Shell Service Station, in Bromsgrove Road, Belbroughton, wearing balaclavas and threatened staff with a gun and a hammer. The robbers were unsuccessful in getting into the safe, but stole alcohol, cigarettes and a small amount of cash.

A spokesman from West Mercia Police said: "They left through the back door of the service station and initial reports indicate they got into a small vehicle, possibly a Renault Clio, parked with the engine running. The two robbers are described as white males, approximately 5ft 6 tall, of average build and wearing hoodies." The robbery was at 10.30pm on Wednesday, May 16.

Poor law castle talk

THE Friends of Dudley Castle will be holding their latest meeting at the castle today (Thursday).

Richard Lewis is the guest speaker on the history of the poor laws at the event being held in The Undercroft at 7.30pm.

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Clearance to continue for major new housing site

WORK on preparing a former industrial estate in Cradley Heath for hundreds of new homes will start later this year.

Around 350 properties are earmarked for the land at Woods Lane, near the town's train station.

Part of the site has already been cleared but extra funding is needed to bulldoze remaining factory units for the ambitious scheme.

The masterplan to transform the industrial area into a housing estate was first revealed two years ago.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has signalled it is ready to award £300,000 of extra funding to allow the former stamping press factory to be demolished.

The award of the extra funds will accelerate the demolition process and ensure it will be completed by September, paving the way for work on the homes to begin.

Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling said the development was a 'complicated' scheme, which would take time to deliver.

He said: "It involves the clearance of redundant industrial buildings that have been there for decades and the land reclamation required before we can get the house building under way. It is extremely important in getting the whole development kick-started. It will be a big plus for Cradley Heath to have that dereliction cleared."

Important role at royal wedding

A ROYAL Marine who grew up in the Black Country had an important role at the royal wedding in Windsor last Saturday, leading a military in honour of newlyweds Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

After the couple said 'I do', thus becoming the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, 48-year-old Major Garry Mason, from Pensnett, was leading his troop along the parade route by St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The father-of-three revealed that after nearly 30 years in the marines he had never performed a ceremonial duty as high-profile as this. Before the event, watched by more than a billion on TV, he said: "I'm quite proud and excited. But there's a bit of nerves too."

New homes plan

EIGHT homes are planned along a main road in Lye.

Plans for properties beside the A458 High Street, near Lye bypass, have been lodged with Dudley Council.

Sculptor Edward shows his metal



Edward Cartwright with one of his works

A SCULPTOR will showcase some never-before-seen artwork inspired by the region's industrial history at a show in the Black Country.

Edward Cartwright, aged 31, from Stourbridge, will bring his self-titled exhibition to The Art Yard in Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath.

The show, which runs until Saturday, May 26, features a range of sculptures in steel and glass – two materials central to the region's industrial heritage.

Edward, who has worked alongside JRR Tolkien's acclaimed great

nephew Tim, who is a leading sculptor, said: "I am heavily influenced by the industrial history of the area in manufacturing, steel and glass and my work explores both materials, individually and combined."

Carpenter

"Growing up in this area I have been attracted to industrial processes and materials."

He added: "The show features work made over the course of the last three years, some of which has never been displayed before."

"It's a real range of shapes and forms."

Edward, who combines sculpting with work as a carpenter and metal worker, said: "I'm excited. It's a good opportunity to get something different out there which has been hidden away for the last few years."

"I haven't exhibited at The Art Yard before, I'm really looking forward to it and I hope people come along and find something interesting."

For more information on Edward's work, visit www.artbyedward.co.uk

More than 700 go Round the Wrekin with Hugh

HUNDREDS got into the saddle as a popular cycling event which set off from Kingswinford into the Shropshire countryside has raised money for Compton Care – and organisers say it looks likely to better last year's total of £28,000.

Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter MBE and Dudley North MP Ian Austin were among those tackling various routes in the Banks's Round the Wrekin sportive.

It saw around 700 cyclists set off from Kingswinford Rugby Club on Sunday in the popular event, now in its third year, featured rides of varying difficulty. The toughest task faced riders taking on the 101-mile 'epic' race, while there were also 64-mile and 24-mile rides.

Cyclists were handed medals on completing the challenge, which attracted members of many local cycle clubs, including Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Veteran

Wolverhampton's Hugh Porter, who won Commonwealth Gold in 1966, took part part as a Compton Hospice patron. Veteran Hugh, who is also a patron of Halesowen Cycling Club, has supported every Round the Wrekin Sportive since it began.

Mr Porter, aged 78, four-times world pursuit champion, took part in the 24-miler which is named in his honour. He said he was hopeful of beating last year's fundraising total of £28,000, which featured a major contingent of pensioner pedal pushers.

He said: "It was a great day, there was massive camaraderie and everyone was in good spirits."

"The weather was sensational and we had 700 take part. I'm really pleased with the support. I really enjoyed it. It's great to be involved with raising money for such a fantastic charity."

It means more than £75,000 has now been raised for the hospice through the event since its launch three years ago.

Labour MP for Dudley North Mr Austin, who is a member of Stourbridge Cycling Club, took on the 64-mile route.

Event sponsor Banks's will help to boost the fundraising total.



Members of Halesowen Cycling Club on the starting line at Kingswinford for the Round the Wrekin Sportive



Cyclists taking part in the Round the Wrekin Sportive



Veteran Hugh Porter shares a joke with a fellow cyclist

NEWS IN BRIEF

£54,000 raised for Mayor's charities

OUTGOING Mayor of Dudley Councillor Dave Tyler, whose year as the borough's first citizen ended last week, raised around £54,000 for his three chosen charities during his time in office.

The Labour councillor, who represents Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, also kept his pledge to visit more than 100 local businesses.

Councillor Tyler raised funds for Dudley Mind, the YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

He said: "I want to thank the people of Dudley for taking Barbara and I to their hearts and supporting us."

Movie plan for Dudley-set novel

A WRITER'S first novel, set in Dudley, is to be turned into a feature film.

Author Keith Bullock, from Malvern, is celebrating the news that his book, *The Winning Ticket*, is to be adapted for the screen later this year.

The *Winning Ticket* tells the story of a Sikh shopkeeper in Dudley who faces a crisis of conscience after tricking a customer out of a winning lottery ticket.

Keith's short story *Second Honymoon* was also filmed by Walsall's Kaush Patel, of Pat the Bull Films, and shown at Cannes Film Festival.

Comedian in third town hall date

TICKETS for Mancunian comic Jason Manford's third show at Dudley Town Hall have gone on sale.

The TV comedian will bring his *Muddle Class* show to the town hall on March 9 next year – after he revealed his love for the venue and for Black Country folk.

He performed the show to a sell-out crowd at the St James's Road venue last month. He took to Facebook during the interval of that show to post: "Top folks here in the Black Country."

He will also return to the venue with *Muddle Class* on October 3.

Bouncy castle fun at festival date in park

A FUN day is being held in Tividale in July as part of the Black Country Festival.

The event on July 7 at Tividale Park will run from 11am to 5pm, and is being organised by the Friends of Tividale Park.

There will be a children's area featuring three bouncy castles, face painting and circus skills and entertainment on stage throughout the day including dancers, singers and bands.

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Fly-tipper fined £1,100 for creating this mess

A FLY-TIPPER who was caught on camera dumping rubbish has been fined more than £1,000, in one of four successful prosecutions of litterbugs by Dudley Council.

Dennis Rose, aged 51, was filmed dumping the rubbish on land off Bowling Green Road, in Netherton, last July.

Documents relating to his address were found in the waste. After failing to respond to letters and a fixed penalty notice, Rose was prosecuted for illegally depositing waste.

Rose, of Brook Lane, Cradley, was fined £1,100 – and also ordered to pay costs of £295, £150 compensation and a victim surcharge of £110 – in his absence at Dudley Magistrates Court on May 9.

Meanwhile, Robert Jones, 75, of Spring Road, Netherton, was also fined £220 after he admitted to failing to ensure waste was disposed of properly. He was also ordered to pay £200 in costs, £150 compensation and a £20 victim surcharge.

Bags

A number of household waste bags had been dumped in undergrowth, on land off Springfield Avenue, in August with documents addressed to Jones found in two of the bags.

In mitigation, the court heard Jones had paid a man in a van to remove the waste, however he failed to make necessary checks and that is why he accepted responsibility for the offence.

Also dealt with by the court was 35-year-old Amos Price, of Heydon Road, Pensnett, who pleaded guilty to illegally depositing waste and was fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £295, with a £50 victim surcharge.



This rubbish left on land off Bowling Green Road led to a court appearance

Last August he had been hired by Summerfield Commercials Ltd to remove waste, but Price, who was not a registered waste carrier, claimed he had then sold the van and its contents on.

The waste, including empty oil containers, plastic petrol, cans and contaminated oily rags, was found dumped in Mullett Park, in Pensnett.

Summerfield Commercials Ltd, of Worcester Road, in Kidderminster, also pleaded guilty to failing in its duty of care to ensure controlled waste was disposed of properly and ordered to pay £295 costs and £215 in compensation.

Dudley Council leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: “These prosecutions send out a stark warning that we will not tolerate this anti-social behaviour.”

Meow did Simba get in such a tight spot?

THIS short cut proved a little too much of a tight squeeze for Simba the cat as he got wedged between the walls of two houses.

Simba got stuck fast in the 10 centimetre wide gap between the two homes in Queens Drive, Rowley Regis, with firefighters from Oldbury called out to rescue him.

However the crew had to alert their Technical Rescue team who spent around an hour using an angle grinder and small tools to get Simba out of his tight spot.

A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said: “A cat was stuck between a space of 100mm.

“Crews used an angle grinder and small tools to remove the animal by drilling a small hole in the wall.”

Wedged

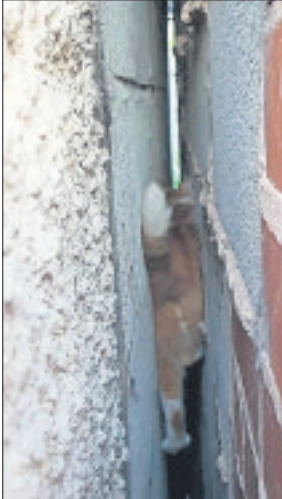
A tweet from Oldbury Fire Station read: “8 lives left for ‘Simba’ who was completely wedged between these 2 houses at Queens Drive, #RowleyRegis. Our @TechRescueWMFS team used their skills to free him. #NotJustFires #CatRescue”.

The RSPCA was also alerted to the call at around 8:20pm on May 14.

It is the second cat that week that firefighters had to rescue in the Black Country after another was stuck between the walls of two houses in Willenhall the previous Friday.

Crew members had to remove bricks from a garage wall of one of the homes in Mill Lane, Willenhall, to free the cat.

That lucky feline was taken to an RSPCA animal hospital in Birmingham where it is recovering as the owners could not be traced.



Oops! Simba is well and truly wedged



‘You’re my hero!’ Simba is saved

Machete probe men released

FOUR men who were arrested after a man was reportedly attacked with a machete in Halesowen have all been released by police.

Police were called to reports of a man being assaulted by two other men in Andrew Road at around 1.10am on May 11. The man was taken to hospital but is now recovering at home.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said that the four men – one aged 28,

two aged 29 and one aged 32 – who were arrested in the area, have now all been released under investigation while police inquiries continue. A fifth man was also arrested but was later released with no further action.

Anyone with information that could help West Midlands Police with their investigation is asked to call 101, quoting incident reference 121 of May 11 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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Thurs 2nd August Mystery Meal Tour Day out??? with a Stop for Lunch!!!!.....	£22
Fri 3rd Aug Lake Windermere, Including Boat Cruise & Free time in Bowness.....	£30 £30 £22
Saturday 4th Aug Blackpool Sand Sea Pier & Tower <i>A great day out for all (t/s £55)</i>	£18 £16 £13
Sat 4th Aug Royal Windsor Castle, Sightseeing, Shopping something for you all.....	£20 £18 £16
Sunday 5th Aug Heartbeat Country, Aidenfield & Whitby Tour Scenic Delight.....	£26 £25 £20
Sunday 5th Aug Weston Super Mare Sand, Sea & Pier <i>Great day out for the family</i>	£16 £15 £10
Tues 7th Aug Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Bets? Coed, Llanberis Pass Llandudno.....	£20 £18 £16
Weds 8th Aug Seaside Mystery?? By the Seaside by the Sea????????.....	£16 or 2 £30
Thurs 9th Aug Mumbles via the Gower Coast & free time in Swansea <i>Midweek Special!!</i>	£18
Fri 10th Aug Shrewsbury Flower Show More Than Just a Flower Show!!!!.....	£35 £34 £15

Sat 11th Aug Barry Island Sand, Sea, Funfair, Home to Gavin & Stacey (t/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sun 12th Aug Blackpool Sand Sea Pier & Tower & <i>FREE AIRSHOW</i> (t/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
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Mon 13th Aug Chester, Cheshire Oaks or Chester Zoo (admission not included).....	£18 £16 £13
Tues 14th Aug Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh & Bourton on the Water.....	£13 or 2 £24
Weds 15th Aug Highgrove Gardens, Guided Tour, Home to Prince Charles & Camilla.....	£49
Weds 15th Aug Weymouth Carnival, A great day out for all the family.....	£22 £20 £16
Fri 17th Aug Plum Tour Pershore, Evesham, Plum Orchard Guided Tour!.....	£16 or 2 £30
Fri 17th Aug West Midland Safari Park Includes Tour & Admission <i>Family Day!</i>	£20 £18 £17
Saturday 18th Aug Blackpool Sand Sea Pier & Tower <i>A great day out for all (t/s £55)</i>	£18 £16 £13
Sat 18th Aug Barmouth-Best Sandy Beaches in Wales!! A great day for all!.....	£18 £16 £13
Sunday 19th Aug Weston Super Mare Sand, Sea & Pier <i>Great day out for the family</i>	£16 £15 £10
Sun 19th Aug Call The Midwife Guided Tour with Fish & Chips for Lunch.....	£55

Sun 19th Aug Buckingham Palace State Rooms “A Royal Outing for you all”.....	£42 £42 £32
Mon 20th August Chesterfield Market & Matlock Bath Shopping & Sightseeing.....	£16 or 2 £30
Weds 22nd Aug Terracotta Army “Warriors in Liverpool” Includes Admission.....	£33 £32 £21
Weds 22nd Aug Liverpool City Of Culture, Sightseeing, Shopping, Albert Docks.....	£18 £16 £13
Wed 22nd Aug Tewkesbury Market & Carvery on the way home Shopping and Tea in one!.....	£20
Thurs 23rd Aug Llangollen, Horseshoe pass and Llandudno <i>MIDWEEK SAVER</i>	£15
Saturday 25th Aug Blackpool Sand Sea Pier & Tower <i>A great day out for all (t/s £55)</i>	£18 £16 £13
Sat 25th Aug Cardiff Harbour Festival Shoreside Entertainment for all the family.....	£18 £16 £13
Sat 25th Aug Southport Sand, Sea & Fun Fair A great family day out (family/saver £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Sunday 26th Aug Weston Super Mare Sand, Sea & Pier <i>Great day out for the family</i>	£16 £15 £10
Sun 26th Aug Bank Holiday Mystery?? Great Day out for all (North South East or West).....	£16
Mon 27th Aug Barry Island Sand, Sea, Funfair, Home to Gavin & Stacey (t/s £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Mon 27th Aug Llandudno Victorian Seaside Town, Sand Sea & Pier (family saver £55).....	£18 £16 £13
Mon 27th Aug Blackpool Sand, Sea and Piers <i>A Great Day out for All</i> (family/saver £55).....	£18 £16 £13

Tues 28th Aug Llangollen Steam Railway & Cream Tea, Scenic Delights of Wales.....	£35 £33 £25
Weds 29th Aug Downton Abbey House and Gardens Tour (Highclee Castle).....	£30 £30 £30
Thurs 30th Aug Bournemouth Sand, Sea, Pier, Town & <i>Free Airshow!!</i> Fun for All.....	£22 £20 £16
Fri 31st Aug Harry Potter Studio Tour Includes Admission “The Secrets Revealed”.....	£65 £65 £60
Sat 1st Sept Blackpool Illuminations “Back to School Special” (Tour 1 hour max).....	£16 or 2 £30
Sat 1st Sept Coronation Street The Tour & Free Time Salford Quays/Manchester.....	£55 £55 £55
Sunday 2nd Sept Weston Super Mare Sand, Sea & Pier <i>Great day out for the family</i>	£16 £15 £10
Weds 5th Sept Mystery Meal Tour Day out??? with a Stop for Lunch!!!!.....	£22
Sat 8th Sept Wellsbourne Market & Stratford Upon Avon “grab a bargain”.....	£12 or 2 £20
Sun 9th Sept Snowdon Mountain Railway Mountain Top Adventure 2 1/2 Hour Experience.....	£40
Tues 11th Sept Cotswolds Moreton in the Marsh - Broadway for a Cream Tea.....	£16 or 2 £30
Fri 14th Sept World Famous Burry Market & Fish chips Shopping & Teatime all in one!!.....	£25
Sat 15th Sept Portmerion Guided Tour & Woodland Land Train, Village, Shops & Café.....	£30
Sat 15th Sept Liverpool City Of Culture, Sightseeing, Shopping, Albert Docks.....	£18 £16 £13

Mon 17th Sept Bakewell Market Home of the Bakewell Tart great produce!!.....	£16 or 2 £30
Tues 18th Sept Hereford via Malvern Hills & Hop pocket Craft Centre.....	£13 or 2 £25
Weds 19th Sept Royal Mint Experience See the other side to the coins in your pocket!.....	£30 £28 £28
Sat 22nd Sept Blackpool Illuminations Sand, Sea & Piers (Tour lights 1 hour Max).....	£20 £18 £16
Sat 22nd Sept Coronation Street The Tour & Free Time Salford Quays/Manchester.....	£55 £55 £55
Weds 26th Sept Autumn Colours in the Vale of Evesham With Tour Guide.....	£16 or 2 £30
Thur 27th Sept Snowdonia Tour Llangollen, Bets? Coed, Llanberis Pass Llandudno.....	£20 £18 £16
Sun 30th Sept Emmerdale Studio Experience & free time in Leeds A Great day out!.....	£42 £40 £40
Sun 30th Sept Malvern Autumn Show Stalls, Animals, Classic Cars, Plants, Etc, Includes Add.....	£30
Sunday Oct 7th Kensington Palace “Princess Diana Remembered” & a Sunday Roast Lunch.....	£49
Late Availability!! Sunday 19th Aug Weymouth 7 Days.....	£299
Friday 14th Sept Paignton 4 days.....	£199
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GREENLINE HOLIDAYS - CALL FOR A BROCHURE

Council leader's pledge to mend pothole-ridden roads

AROUND £1 million will be ploughed into improving crumbling main roads across Dudley over the next 12 months.

Major resurfacing schemes will be carried out on A and B roads across the borough, while potholes will be filled in as part of an improvement programme. Council leader Patrick Harley has vowed to ensure drivers will notice the difference to the quality of road surfaces, which he says have been neglected for too long.

Metro link brings new investors

THE Midland Metro's extension into Dudley is attracting new investors.

Dudley Council's deputy chief executive Alan Lunt said potential investors had shown an interest in the town centre since it was revealed the tram line would be extending to Dudley. Work on the £200 million extension is due to start next year and it is hoped it will be ready for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Mr Lunt was speaking to businesses bosses at a special DY5 breakfast meeting to look at 'Connecting the West Midlands'. Mr Lunt said: "We have seen a raft of new investors come forward, wanting to invest in Dudley town centre. This is just one of many positive knock-on effects bringing the Metro to Dudley will unlock."

The long-awaited redevelopment of Dudley bus station has also taken a step forward with plans submitted by Transport for West Midlands.

But it means large roadworks schemes are likely on some of the busiest roads in the borough.

It was revealed earlier this year that a further £164,000 would be put into fixing roads in Dudley, drawn from Department of Transport funding. But after the Conservatives secured a majority on the council following the local elections, Councillor Harley said a much larger investment was planned for the borough's roads with the authority looking to fund the improvements directly.

Investment

He said: "I want to make a difference to the roads infrastructure. We need to put hefty investment in for general maintenance and resurfacing. I'm looking to set £1 million aside."

He added: "I want people in 12 months' time to say the council has made a difference to the road infrastructure"

The condition of many of the Black Country's main roads has deteriorated significantly following a harsh winter.

Meanwhile, Dudley Council paid out more than £22,000 in compensation between 2014 and 2016 over damaged caused to vehicles by potholes.

Image of town centre's transformation



Artist's image of the Portersfield scheme on the site of Cavendish House

THIS new image shows how Dudley town centre is set to change as part of an £82 million scheme which aims to create more than 500 jobs.

The artist's impression of the Portersfield development shows shops and bars linked by open plan walkways. It is a vision for the future of Dudley once the long-awaited demolition of eyefore former office block Cavendish House gets the go-ahead.

Plans have been submitted to Dudley Council by developer Avenbury and will go before the planning committee.

Bosses said the office block could be demolished in the autumn to make way for the huge development including shops, a cinema, bars and restaurants, a gym and accommodation for students.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said: "This is a significant step towards creating a bustling town centre environment with shops, bars and restaurants. It still has to go through the normal planning procedure but if approved this will be the biggest development in Dudley in decades."

An Avenbury spokesman said: "This is an extremely exciting project that will be a game-changer for Dudley, alongside all of the other major infrastructure and redevelopment projects that are happening in the town."

"Dudley is finally getting the investment and recognition it deserves and we're proud to be playing a part in shaping its future."

'Pivotal year ahead' for the borough

THE leader of Dudley Council says he hopes to build on a successful 12 months in a "pivotal year ahead".

Councillor Patrick Harley was re-elected council leader at the annual council meeting last Thursday, where he also announced some new faces to his decision-making cabinet.

The Kingswinford South councillor said one of his key focuses for the next year was tackling the state of the borough's roads (see left). He also said the council's procurement programme would be a central focus, as the authority looks to save more money in the way it buys in services.

Councillor Harley said his new cabinet would be tasked with overseeing some huge programmes of work and making key decisions over the next 12 months. That includes the £353 million Midland Metro extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, the £82 million Portersfield leisure and retail development in Dudley, growing the DY5 enterprise zone success and overseeing continued improvements in children's services.

New to the cabinet are Councillors Ruth Buttery, Simon Phipps and Angus Lees. Halesowen's Councillor David Vickers remains deputy leader. Councillors Steve Clark, Nicolas Barlow, Karen Shakespeare, Laura Taylor and Ian Kettle continue their cabinet roles.

Metro rebrand as new authority takes over

THE Midland Metro is to be re-branded by the region's combined authority when it takes over the running of the service next month.

The tram service will be known as West Midlands Metro from June 24.

Transport for West Midlands, part of the West Midlands Combined Authority, is taking over the service from National Express.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Never mind A-team, it's ay we team for burglar

HAVE you seen the video of the neighbourhood watch group in Walsall that sprung into action when a suspected burglar was found climbing over a fence?

In scenes likened to an episode of The A-Team, half the estate got involved, using cars to block every conceivable escape route, while about a dozen residents cornered the alleged baddie and held him until the Old Bill arrived.

That's what you call a close-knit community, and just the kind you want to live in. I love it when a plan comes together.

What we don't know yet, is what happened to the fate of the man. Has he been charged? Is he going through the courts? What will his sentence be?

We've all seen these police documentaries where after a long chase, vast use of manpower, maybe a helicopter and a police dog or two, chummy is bundled into the back of the van. And then a voiceover at the end of the programme nonchalantly informs us the hooligan was released without charge, given a suspended sentence or a few hours community service. Let's hope that justice is done.

JEREMY Clarkson recently revealed that in the early days when he was preparing to work on his Grand Tour TV show, his boss advertised for a director. Applications came from all over the world, and for a fortnight a 2ft high pile of CVs sat on his desk.

When it came to drawing up a shortlist, the boss took the top seven-eighths of the pile, and threw them in the bin.

"I don't employ unlucky people," he told his secretary. Really? It's just that he does employ Richard Hammond, who seems to have spent most of the past decade in hospital after crashing various vehicles at high speed. If he's the lucky one, you wouldn't want to swap places with one of the others.

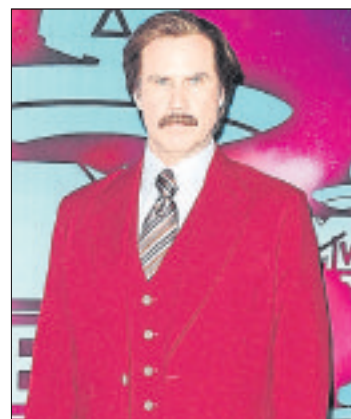
WHEN Oldbury teaching assistant Dawn Paige found her wheeley bin had been tampered with, her first thought was that children were responsible. However, when she examined her CCTV, it appeared to suggest something rather more disturbing – a big cat, maybe a lioness or a leopard. Dudley Zoo keepers appear to agree, but insist that all their big cats are present and correct, and you would hope they know what they're talking about.

It does remind me of the old Tommy Munday joke, though. A lion escaped from Dudley Zoo, made its way up to Tip-top, but it saw some kids playing in the street and ran away scared.

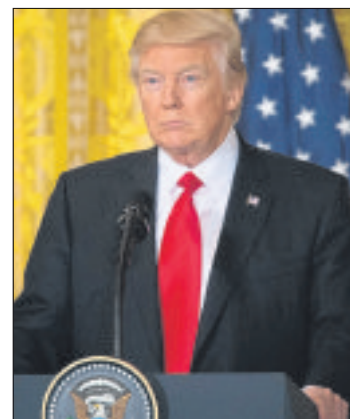
Will Ferrell ever bring out a movie on Eurovision?



No joy for Jezza in the local elections – but why should this be a consideration?



I've seen the future, of Eurovision, and it's not orange, it's Burgundy, maybe



Trump's America...ticking along nicely despite everything, says a recent visitor

Continuing s-train of costly transport

WITH Peter Rhodes off on his holidays, this week, instead, we have snippets from three of our writers who dared to try and fill the great man's shoes...

ALEX ROSS:

GOOD news! Finally, a review is to be done over rail fares in a bid to stop passengers being ripped off. It will address concerns that travellers 'are being cheated', according to The Times. Cheated is an understatement. Return ticket from Wolverhampton to Stockport – 60 miles – £33. I'm afraid the car keys are still out.

AND why Stockport? My football team, which unleashed another season of pain on me. Alas, a summer free... but no, we have a World Cup, and England are taking part. Pain is relentless.

MOVING on, and AA have this week described the state of Britain's roads as a disgrace. It claims potholes cost motorists at least £1m a month in damages. I'm going to stick my neck out here. Yes, our roads do have potholes. There are more than 250,000 miles of road in this country. Let's face it, it would be impossible to keep on top of and continually repair/replace every stretch of road impacted. Can't we all just slow down, look at the road ahead and take care?

LEIGH SANDERS:

WHAT a great day for Wolves fans with that promotion parade on Bank Holiday Monday. The weather, the numbers on the streets, the atmosphere. What did make me laugh was the

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



national press arriving and trying to join in the party. One colleague pointed out one outlet had written about 'amber and black' being out in force. Didn't realise Barnet fans were there too.

NATIONAL news reports on the day of the local councils vote annoyed me greatly. One commentator announced 'neither Jeremy Corbyn nor Theresa May really made any gains'. But surely this is not the point. National and regional/local politics are two completely different beasts and should be treated as such, otherwise we will never break the chain of national political point scoring and tomfoolery and actually get local councillors who can achieve something.

POTHOLES. Yes, dreaded potholes. I've already had to fork out £183 in 2018 on two damaged tyres and a buckled wheel thanks to the damned things. And reading the letters page in this paper I am not the only one. Still, nice to see the council has the cash for 'pop-up gardens' in Wolverhampton though.

AH, Eurovision. As well as being the eccentric escape of a continent from everyday stress it is still as much fun now watching the absolutely politically neutral voting part, ahem, as it was

when I was a child. Plus, this year we found out Hollywood star Will Ferrell, through his Swedish wife, is a huge fan. He is apparently thinking about making a movie on the spectacle. I think we can all agree Ron Burgundy competing for the Swedes would be a barrel of laughs.

KEITH HARRISON:

I'M just back from Trump's America, where I expected to find the place in rack and ruin, given what a terrible and beastly President he is (copyright all media everywhere). Strangely, the streets were clean, the shops buzzed, traffic moved and there were friendly police everywhere. I couldn't find any of those 'Make America Great Again' hats... but it seems to be doing OK (copyright no media anywhere).

IN terms of The Donald, I did see quite a few middle-aged women in 'Resist' T-shirts. 'Resist' what exactly? Democracy?

WE were also taken aback by huge digital roadside billboards advertising the waiting times in local hospital A&E departments. The longest we saw was nine – yes, NINE – minutes. Worth remembering when we lecture other countries about our glorious National Health Service.

IF you're offended by that (and I know criticism of the NHS is verboten) and fancy beating me up, bear in mind that 61 Staffordshire A&E patients waited for 12 HOURS in March. Therefore, it could be quicker for me to fly to New York and be treated there than in the local hospital I can see from my bedroom window.

TALKING POINT

Sporting chance needed for all tastes

AN enforced absence from work left me at the mercy of daytime television. So thank goodness for the radio.

A head in a book with the radio on was how I best chose to spend my recovery period. And when I was fit enough to at least 'potter' about again, the radio was once more my ideal companion.

I was grateful though to sit through days of Commonwealth Games coverage, which beat any of the drivel that usually fills our screens during the day.

While media outlets like to have us believe that football – the Premier League at least – is the be all and end all of the sporting world, it was great to see different sports being given extensive coverage. Squash, badminton, swimming, gymnastics, even netball. I was engrossed in them all.

The dedication of these athletes, the sportsmanship and competitiveness was plain for all to see. And these are not exclusive sports. They are ones that anyone can play or get involved in at little cost. Sometimes these sports need to be brought to the nation's attention to realise there is a life outside of football, and the attitude of the newspapers, radio and television that think the public is only interested in what is going on at Old Trafford, Stamford Bridge and the likes.

And you just know that when it comes to awards at the end of the year, some of these gold medal winning athletes will be overlooked, despite their achievements, in favour of some bigger name from a more popular pastime.

The Games, and the Olympics before them, have put a number of so-called minority sports on the map, but sadly it is only on such big occasions when they are given a platform.

Hopefully, when the Games come to Birmingham in 2022, The Second City can put on as good a show as our Aussie hosts on the Gold Coast did this year. Secondly, we can only hope the coverage will be just as extensive – on terrestrial TV and not truncated by adverts.

The BBC has lost the rights to many top sporting events in recent years, with Wimbledon, the Boat Race and the FA Cup Final among the few remaining big events covered. The Grand National and Royal Ascot, F1 and Test cricket have all fallen by the wayside. Now even Test Match Special has been lost.

Who knows what could happen in the next four years, or two when the Olympics come around again. But I'd like to be reassured that these so-called minor sports will continue to fill valuable airtime.

MARK SHIPP

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Leaving politics with a clean conscience

THE election results of May 3 were a crushing blow for UKIP and for me personally.

For four years Dudley UKIP councillors have worked extremely hard to not only help the people of our area with individual problems but also to try to change the way our borough was run and to make changes we felt would be beneficial.

Whilst I was focussed more on the political aspects our other councillors were heavily engaged in community work and truly living up to the image

of a real community councillor.

The election results were not just politically painful but personally disappointing for all of us after investing so much of our heart and soul into it.

I am first and foremost a believer that the will of the people expressed through the ballot box is what really matters and that will has been made crystal clear.

I shall not be trying to return to local politics and will see out my term as an MEP working as hard as ever to press for real independence for our nation from the EU.

I want to personally thank the people of Sedgley for the opportunity they gave me to represent them and wish them and all of the people of Dudley borough the very best.

I gave it my best shot and I always stood by what I thought was right for the people and the area I represented.

I leave local politics with a clear conscience. The pantomime of Dudley Council will now carry on without its favourite villain

BILL ETHERIDGE
Dudley

We should not beg for crumbs

I ALWAYS read and enjoy the Peter Rhodes column in The Chronicle and most of the time find myself in agreement with his often pithy comments.

I am particularly attracted to the comments on the Brexit 'wreckers' and their efforts to defeat the democratically declared will of the electorate.

He refers to 'a cabal of the rich, powerful self-important plotters'.

To this I would add also that the cabals (plural) also comprise a substantial number of those with strong vested interests in this country remaining tied to Brussels – at great cost to this nation.

Since the EU needs us and our trade rather more than we do them and theirs, why is our Government 'begging' for crumbs from the EU table when we should be dictating terms.

BARRY WHEELER
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Madness on road – riders seen with no helmet or lights

YESTERDAY, we saw a motorcycle ridden by a girl with no crash helmet (with a pillion passenger, with no helmet either), a motorised tricycle with three passengers, and a trailer, again no helmets.

Then coming home from Tipton, we saw two motor cyclists doing wheelies, without helmets or lights on their bikes along Tipton Road passing the Black Country Living Museum. At 9.30pm!

What do they think about? If they have brains.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Staggering indictment of bosses

'TOO busy stuffing their mouths with gold' – what a staggering indictment of directors of a company responsible for billions of pounds worth of Government contracts.

Carillion, one of the country's biggest contractors, was run by a bunch of incompetent greedy men but again 'lessons have been learnt' and again the directors ride off into the sunset with their saddle bags full of the workers' cash. No doubt they will soon be sitting on their yachts partying with the Longbridge four and, of course, Sir Philip Green.

You bet lessons have been learnt. The next bunch won't be caught out in such a naive manner. But that is not likely to pacify the public.

The truth is that half of Britain's industry is run by fools and most of our politicians went to school with them. It's just one big club.

S T VAUGHAN
Birmingham

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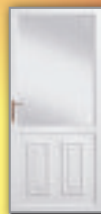
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Scout's honour for a veteran leader, aged 96

"I might as well keep going - I'd rather be doing that than sitting at home doing my knitting."

The words of 96-year-old Scout leader Derek Elton, who has been awarded an MBE after more than eight decades of services into the youth movement in Stourbridge.

He was rewarded for his years of hard work after first started getting involved with the Scout group when he was a teenager. Now, as he edges closer to 100, he still serves as the leader of Kinver Scout Camp with no plans to stop.

"I still love it - it's stupid at my age isn't it?," said Mr Elton. "I've

been volunteering for the scouts for years. It has done so much for me and put me on the right lines in life."

As for as his honour, Mr Elton added: "It shook me when I found out - I was overcome. I thought they'd got the wrong person!" Mr Elton was awarded the prestigious award at The Elton Centre in St John's Road, Stourbridge, which was named in his honour after his years of service to the charity Age Concern.

The ceremony on Monday saw the Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands John Crabtree was in attendance to present him with his MBE.



Scout leader Derek Elton, aged 96, who has been awarded an MBE after eight decades of service

Hospital lab can test for 'Black Mamba'

SCIENTISTS in Birmingham have launched the first test of its kind which will help to detect whether patients have used dangerous substances like Black Mamba.

The potentially lethal chemicals have been linked to a number of deaths. Conventional laboratory methods did not pick up these psychoactive substances, but scientists at Birmingham City Hospital's pathology department have been using equipment to detect new compounds as that appear on the market. They can then determine if patients with symptoms have taken these synthetic cannabinoids, and are rolling out the test nationwide.

Professor Jonathan Berg, pathology director, said: "We knew what to look for with older so-called 'legal highs' but the types of chemicals in street drugs have changed. Our state-of-the-art equipment has enabled us to develop ways of testing for these drugs. If a patient comes to hospital in a zombie-like-state, this helps offer a diagnosis so appropriate treatment can be given."

Boss calls on schools to avoid exclusions

THE West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has warned that children who have been kicked out of school are contributing to an explosion in gang violence.

David Jamieson said it was vital that alternatives were found for unruly pupils, who he said some schools were excluding due to concern over getting a poor Ofsted report.

It came following a week of violence that saw 24-year-old Abdul Rahman Abubaker gunned down at a barbecue and 16-year-old Ozell Pemberton stabbed to death in separate incidents in Birmingham.

Mr Jamieson warned that policing alone will not solve the 'dreadful' scourge of knife and gun crime, insisting: "We can't arrest our way out of this problem."

Speaking in Oldbury, where he unveiled the region's 15th knife bin, Mr Jamieson said he had raised the issue of pupil exclusions with schools, the Government and Ofsted.



PCC David Jamieson

Gangs and Violence two-and-a-half years ago, said there were a 'raft' of issues that need addressing.

"We've actually got to look at why it is happening, why some young boys, why some young men are actually picking up knives and attacking each other."

"The vast majority of young people are doing really well, working well at school, getting good jobs, eventually going to look after a family. But some are finding themselves drawn into violence."

Latest Office of National Statistics figures showed the West Midlands Police force area had more than double the national average of gun crimes between 2015 and 2016, with 19 offences per 100,000 residents. In the Metropolitan Police area, it was 18 per 100,000 over the same period.

"We've got to look at what those alternatives are for those people and how we keep them in their schools and education."

Mr Jamieson, who launched a Commission on

Laser jobs target planes

PLANES landing at Birmingham Airport are being targeted by laser pen yobs, police say.

West Midlands Police said there had been incidents over the last few days affecting flights landing between 9pm and midnight. Officers believe the 'extremely dangerous' lights, which could dazzle or distract pilots, are coming from the Sheldon and Yardley areas of Birmingham and are appealing for anyone with information to get in touch.

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Tighter leash on dogs in tower blocks

DUDLEY Council bosses have opted against a ban on pet dogs being allowed in the borough's high-rise blocks, despite a majority of consulted tenants wanting dogs kept out of flats.

The number of dogs in high-rise blocks in Dudley borough will be 'reasonably controlled' in a bid to limit noise nuisance.

Dudley Council is aiming to cut anti-social behaviour incidents and disputes in flats involving dogs.

A consultation of tenants found more than two-thirds were in favour of banning dogs from high rises in the borough. But the authority has instead decided to control the numbers and educate owners on their responsibilities. It adds up to a tougher approach on dog owners, following reports of 'nuisance or aggression' towards tenants and council staff.

The council will aim to ensure 'that the number of dogs in any block of flats is reasonably controlled'.

Mothercare to axe 50 stores but Merry Hill branch spared

MOTHERCARE stores in Walsall and Stafford are set to close in the next 12 months under a plan that will see 50 underperforming branches axed nationwide.

But the retailer's Merry Hill store is one of those being saved as part of a rescue plan.

The two store closures will involve around 30 of the 800 jobs that will be lost through a rescue deal called a company voluntary arrangement (CVA).

If Mothercare's creditors give the CVA the green light it will allow the business to close loss-making shops and secure rent cuts at other branches.

The company is not officially identifying

Report by Simon Penfold

which stores are set for closure, although staff have been told. The details were in a leaked document circulated among Mothercare's creditors.

The branch on Walsall's Crown Wharf Retail Park is listed for closure, along with the shop at the Queen's Retail Park in Stafford.

The document also reveals that other local branches, at Merry Hill shopping centre, Telford, Solihull and Tamworth, are secure.

Mothercare currently employs about 3,000 people across 137 outlets in the UK. It will cut that number of outlets to 78 initially, and then to 72 by 2022.

In a statement last week Mothercare said: "We regret having to close stores and the impact this will have on colleagues. However, we had no alternative to executing a CVA."

"The business was in an unsustainable situation and was in clear need of an appropriate resolution and today's comprehensive measures provide a renewed and stable financial structure for the business, and will allow Mothercare to accelerate its adaptation to the shifting dynamic towards online."

Mark Newton Jones, who was given the elbow as chief executive last month, will return to once again take the top job. The man brought in to replace him, David Wood, will now become managing director.

Dudley to get its own beach this summer



Designer Rachel Lane starts spreading the world about new attraction Ow Bin Ya Sands, coming to the zoo this weekend

A SEASIDE atmosphere is being created for visitors to Dudley Zoo despite the attraction's landlocked location.

'Ow Bin Ya Sands' is set to open in time for the May half term holiday complete with buckets and spades, two giant deckchairs, three seaside photo boards and plenty of picnic tables.

The zoo's Sensory Garden at the top of the site is currently being transformed into a beach play area which will stay in place for the whole summer.

A total of 80 tonnes of sand is being piled into a large wooden frame, measuring almost 50ft by 30ft, so youngsters can make play and make sandcastles when taking a break from seeing the animals.

Dudley Zoo's marketing manager, Andrea Hales, said the beach will give visitors 'something fun and different to enjoy'.

Ow Bin Ya Sands will open on Saturday. For more information visit the zoo website.

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Bowlers with blindfolds get Beacon insight

A VISUALLY-IMPAIRED tenpin bowling team have shown others what it is like to bowl when blind.

The team from the Beacon Centre took on a sighted team, who all wore blacked out goggles to stimulate being blind, during a friendly game to raise awareness.

Beacon's team have played teams up and down the country winning a host of trophies including the 2016 national championship.

The challenge was the idea of team captain Ranjit Boprai who wanted staff at Tenpin Dudley and the Beacon Centre to experience what it would be like to

play blind. The 53-year-old from Wolverhampton said: "I have been playing for the past four years and throughout this time Tenpin Dudley has always supported us."

"Without their kind backing we could not have highlighted the importance of the sport and life beyond sight loss."

Players are guided with verbal instructions by a sighted volunteer.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive officer at the Beacon Centre, added: "This was an amazing experience."

The match was won by the Beacon Centre's visually impaired team.

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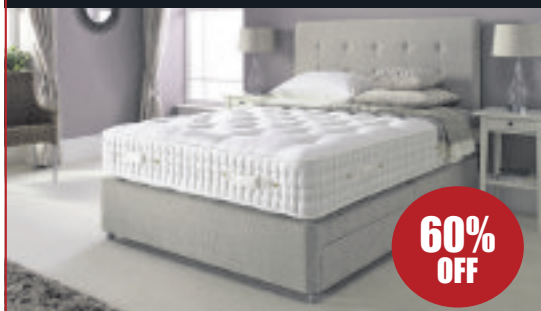
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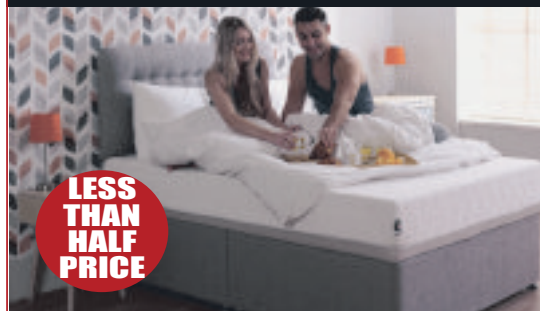
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New laws needed to combat online abuse

THE Government's digital minister, Stourbridge MP Margot James, has revealed she received abuse online and reported it to the police.

It comes as the Government announced new laws will be introduced to tackle the internet's 'wild west' in a bid to make Britain the 'safest place in the world' to be online. Many female MPs have reported receiving abuse online, and Tory MP Ms James was asked about her own experiences.

Speaking to host Sophy Ridge on Sky's Ridge On Sunday, Ms James said: "I would like to comment just generally though because I conducted a round table of women Parliamentarians earlier this year and, like you, I was completely horrified by what I've heard."

"It's not just Parliamentarians, it's any woman in public life, and some of our famous broadcasters have had the most terrible abuse online, which is completely unacceptable. If it's not illegal it should be and I think some of it is."

"I feel very strongly that it shouldn't be up to the taxpayer to fund all of the mechanisms by which this content is removed, which is currently the case, it should be up to the platforms themselves. There is sufficient artificial intelligence available for them to make a huge impression on this and the fact that most of them don't is highly irresponsible, which is why we intend to bring in legislation to control it."

Attempt to block extradition has failed

A POLISH man accused of plotting with his brother to kidnap a British model in Italy has lost a High Court bid to block his extradition.

Michal Herba, aged 37, who was arrested in the Black Country, is alleged to have helped Lukasz Herba, 30, with the kidnap of 20-year-old Chloe Ayling in July.

Both men deny any wrongdoing and Michal Herba challenged his extradition to Italy, where he faces trial.

His lawyers argued the European arrest warrant issued by the Italian authorities was 'wholly deficient' because it had only stated that he was 'complicit' in the alleged kidnap without further details of his role.

But his appeal was dismissed by two senior judges, who ruled the warrant was 'adequate'.

Drugged

Italian prosecutors say Ms Ayling was lured to Milan for a fake photoshoot before being drugged, handcuffed and bundled into a suitcase at the start of a six-day ordeal.

The model, from Coulsdon, Surrey, was allegedly driven 120 miles to a remote farmhouse near Turin and a ransom of 300,000 Euros was demanded.

Lukasz Herba was arrested at the British consulate in Milan after driving Ms Ayling there on July 17.

Michal was arrested by the National Crime Agency in Tivdale in August and his extradition ordered in September.

Italian police allege the



Model Chloe Ayling

brothers are part of a group calling itself Black Death, which is active on the dark web selling women as sex slaves to buyers in the Middle East.

But the brothers claim they are not guilty of any crime and say they were involved in a 'publicity stunt' for Ms Ayling's benefit.

Speaking after the hearing, Michal Herba's barrister George Hepburne Scott said: "We are carefully considering the judgment with our client and will be deciding whether to apply to appeal to the Supreme Court."

Disability support

WEST Midlands Police has been honoured by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). It is the first metropolitan police force to be recognised for supporting staff with disabilities. The force has been named as a disability confident leader by the DWP Head of diversity and inclusion, Anthony Burnett, said: "The award of disability leader status is a great achievement for the force."



PDSA veterinary nurses will be offering free health checks for dog in various Dudley borough locations

Free health checks for dogs¹³ as pet charity goes on tour

A PET charity is planning to offer free health MOTs for dogs in Dudley borough.

The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) is bringing its Pet-Wise Tour to Dudley next week with the aim of helping keep canines in tip-top condition.

This year's tour is supported by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery and will travel across the UK providing free health checks and pet care advice.

A veterinary nurse will be on board one of the charity's PetCheck vehicles which will visit the Brockmoor Community Centre in Pennsnett Road from 1pm to 5pm on

Tuesday, Priory Park near the hub building at Priory Road, from 10am to 5pm on Wednesday and Gornal Recreation Ground in Vale Street from 10am to 5pm on Friday, June 1.

The vehicle will also visit Huntingtree Park in Halesowen from 10am to 5pm on June 1.

Veterinary Nurse Kaya Hawrylak will perform the dog checks. These will include an assessment of diet, behaviour and health.

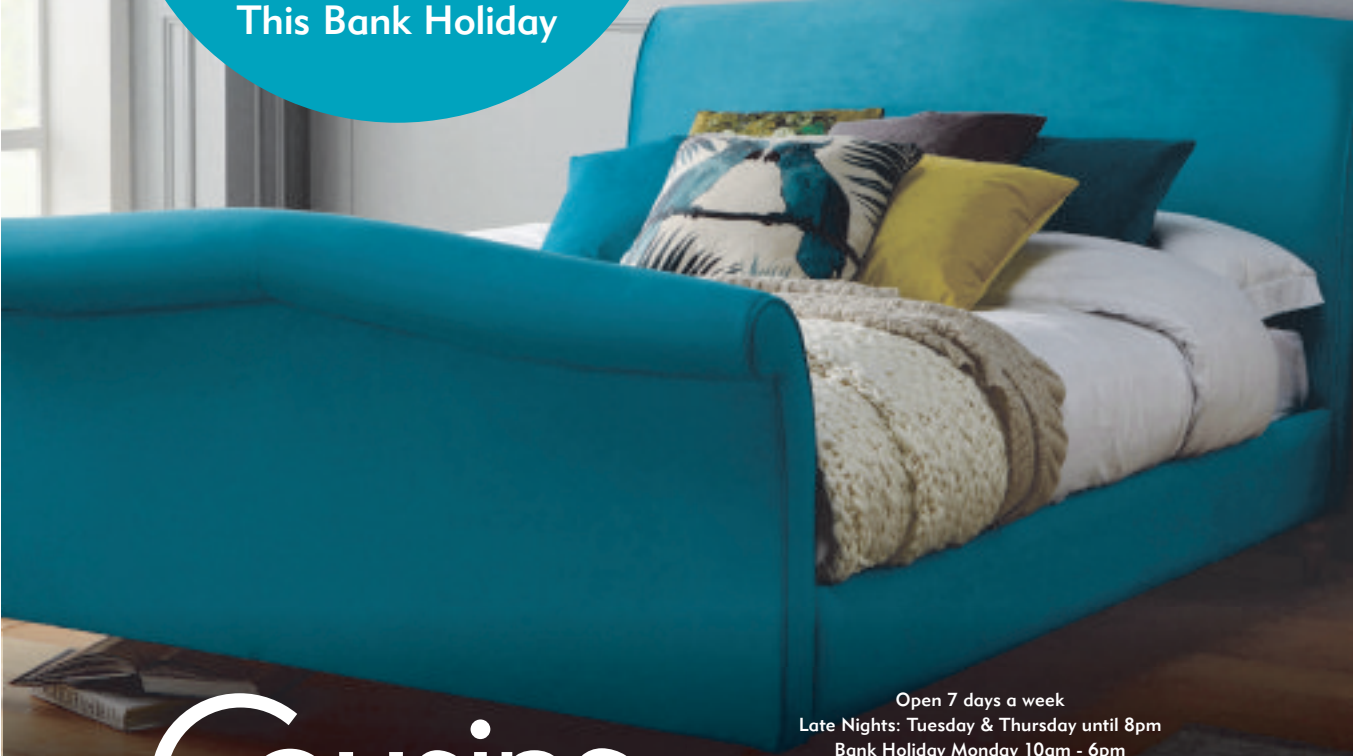
Additional services including nail clipping, ear cleaning and micro-chipping which will also be available free of charge, although donations are welcomed.

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14Team-mates in special cup final tribute to Ryan

TEAM-MATES and friends of an amateur footballer from Stourbridge who died after being stabbed in a nightclub paid an emotional tribute ahead of a cup final clash.

Players and officials from Wrens Nest FC came together to remember Ryan Passey before their West Midlands Regional League Cup final against Shropshire side St Martins FC.

Both sides took part in a minute's silence before dozens of orange balloons marked with the words 'Ryan 4 ever' were let off in tribute before

the game, which St Martins went on to win 5-3.

Ryan, aged 24, died after an incident on the dancefloor at the former Stourbridge nightclub Chicago's last August. He used to play in midfield for Wrens Nest.

Friend and teammate Lee Salt, who was there on the night Ryan lost his life, said carrying out the tribute made the team feel 'proud'.

Ahead of the game the 22-year-old from Blackheath let off a number four balloon in tribute – the number that Ryan used to wear for the club.



Lee Salt and Wrens Nest players and officials get ready to release balloons in tribute to Ryan Passey

Dragon boat racers beat drum for causes

CROWDS turned out to enjoy an boat race with a difference as competitors took to the water at Himley to raise funds for charity.

The sun was shining and the competition fierce as Dragon Boat Racing returned to Himley Hall in Dudley for its 18th consecutive year on Sunday.

Eighteen teams battled it out on The Great Pool in a bid to help good causes across the region – including Compton Care, the Beacon Centre for the Blind, the Wolverhampton MS Therapy Centre and Sedgley Scorpions FC.

Mike Boyce, chairman of the Dragon Boat Committee at Wolverhampton Rotary Club, said: "We had a record number of people watching it, which the weather helped. It is a really good family day out. We get these long boats and we have up to 16 paddlers who sit in twos."

"All of the teams are invited to get sponsorship for charity. Half of the money that a boat raises goes to the team's chosen charity and the other half goes to the Rotary Club of Wolverhampton Charitable Trust."

Report by Luke Bartlett

"It does take an awful lot of setting up. We will be having our first meeting for the 2019 event in the next two or three weeks. Himley have already got it in their diary for next year."

The 350-yard race has raised £360,000 over the years.

Leading up to the main race the Cappemini team were crowned winners of the minor final, with Jonahs Arc bagging fastest team of the day. But Hawkes Home Improvements won the main event, trailed closely by Peter Posh Formal Suit Hire and Jonahs Arc.



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Banging the drum for the Tettenhall College boat



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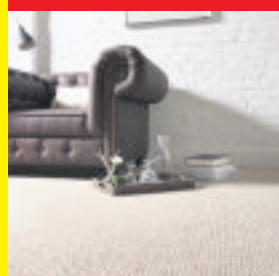
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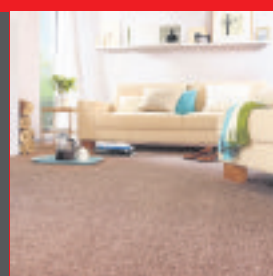
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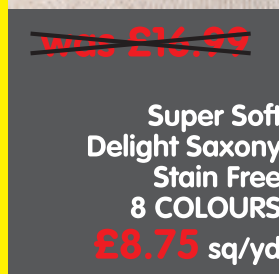
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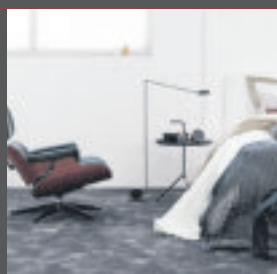
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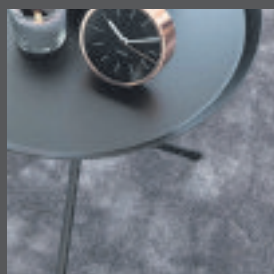
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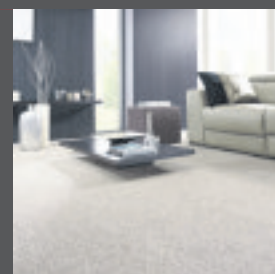
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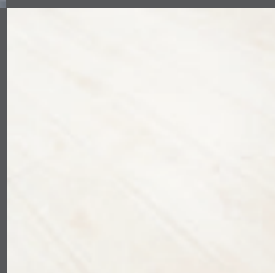
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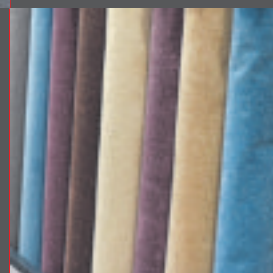
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16
Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, May 24, 2018

Get into the swing with charity golf day

A RECRUITMENT firm is inviting companies to help raise £3,000 for a hospice through its annual golf event. Workforce Staffing, which has branches in Dudley and Kidderminster, is hosting its event at Blackwell Golf Club on July 6. Golfers will raise funds for Primrose Hospice in Bromsgrove – a charity which needs almost £2 million each year to operate its care services. It offers support to patients who have been diagnosed with life limiting illnesses and their families, including children, through their Day Hospice and Family Support services. The cost for a team of four is £400 with golfers set for a variety of prizes, including for the longest drive. Joe Alekna, managing director for Workforce Staffing, said: "Our golf day always attracts brilliant support from kind-hearted individuals and local businesses who want to help us raise funds for a wonderful cause." To take part email clarkson@weareworkforce.co.uk or call 01527 509000.



Thick plumes of smoke billow up from the fire in Brierley Hill. Picture: Wayne Shakespeare

Thick smoke billows into sky above factory yard

A BLAZE in Brierley Hill sent plumes of smoke billowing into the sky across the Black Country. Thick black smoke was spotted on the horizon three miles away from the fire raging in Hawbush. Around 30 firefighters from Brierley Hill, Haden Cross, Stourbridge, Tipton, Dudley and Bilston fire stations tackled the blaze in a factory yard off Bull Street. Flames ripped through 12 bales of cardboard and wood, say West Midlands Fire Service. Crews were called to the scene at around 1.10pm on Thursday (May 17). Firefighters worked to stop the spread of flames to neighbouring warehouses, using water pumped from the nearby canal to douse the flames. Barmaid Becky Wright, of The New Wellington pub, in nearby Bretell Lane, said staff had heard a loud bang. "We did see a lot of black smoke all of a sudden," she said. Staff from Hawbush Primary School said the school had been unaffected but black smoke had been seen overhead. Bystanders saw flames burst from behind factory buildings as smoke rose. Flames affected an area of 165 square feet.



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First driver is jailed in car cruise crackdown

A DRIVER from the West Midlands has become the first motorist to be jailed for breaching a region-wide injunction banning 'car cruising'. West Midlands Police caught Atif Qasim, from Alum Rock, Birmingham, racing at breakneck speeds in the city. Police dash-cam footage caught the moment VW Golf driver Qasim flew over an island on the A47 Heartlands Parkway near Star City at more than 90mph while racing a BMW through the streets. Officers lying in wait on the evening of March 25 as part of Operation Hercules – the force's response to tackling street racers – gave pursuit and quickly pulled over 20-year-old Qasim and BMW driver Sajad Hussain, 27. However, Qasim failed to turn up at court but was eventually rearrested later that month after officers tracked him down through known associates. When he appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court on May 8, he was sent straight to prison to start a seven-month sentence and ordered to pay £726 in court costs.

By Steven Jones

Arrested

Both were arrested and charged with breaching the High Court order, which outlaws street racing and wider anti-social behaviour such as riding in convoy, performing stunts, or revving engines, blaring horns and playing loud music at vehicle gatherings. The legislation is in place throughout Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country. Hussain, of Bordesley Green, Birmingham, admitted the offence at court on April 9 and received a suspended jail sentence. "It should act as a stark warning to any motorist who thinks they can drive dangerously or anti-socially on our streets with impunity."

Deaf support service creates helpful card

A GROUP in Dudley are celebrating the launch of a new communication card to assist deaf people. The Deaf Focus Group who regularly use Dudley's Sign Cafe have been working with other partners to look at the issues affecting members of the deaf community. They have been working with Health Watch Dudley, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and Dudley Council's deaf support service. The group felt the deaf community would benefit from a quick and simple way to inform people of their communication needs, in particular health and social care professionals so they could ensure the right support was in place. The working group came up with the design for a simple business card which informs people that the user is deaf or hearing impaired. The card will be available from Queen's Cross Network, in Wellington Road, Dudley – home to Dudley Council's deaf support service. FCall (01384) 813462.

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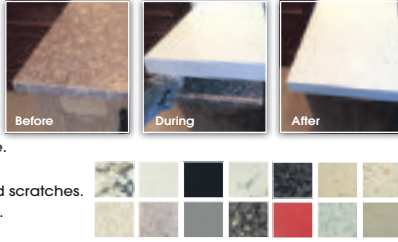


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HARRY & MEGHAN

Hair stylist reveals Duchess was 'calm and chatty' before wedding

The Duchess of Sussex was a calm and chatty bride with no signs of nerves on her wedding morning, according to her hair stylist. Serge Normant said it was "dreamy" to work with Meghan, creating a bun that was "messy in a controlled way".

Describing her demeanour on Saturday morning, he said: "She was calm, yeah. Chatty, absolutely. We were definitely having exchanges,

yeah for sure. She was very happy. It was a beautiful morning, just the perfect morning to get married." Asked if she had shown any signs of nerves, the Paris-born hairdresser said: "No, I don't think so, she was just very happy, very happy, very excited."

Mr Normant, who flew from his New York base especially to style Meghan's hair, said he had spoken with the newly-married couple after

the wedding, describing Meghan as "thrilled" and Harry as "fantastic". He said: "She was thrilled, yeah she was very happy." On Harry, he added: "He's Prince Harry, he's fantastic."

The Queen was seen being driven back to Windsor Castle soon after the morning service at the Royal Chapel of All Saints in Windsor Great Park had finished. As a few Windsor Farm shop regulars watched on.

Meghan dons Diana's ring



Harry gave his wife a poignant gift – an emerald-cut aquamarine ring that belonged to his mother, Diana

It was a touching gesture that showed Harry's mother was never far from his thoughts.

The new Duke of Sussex gave his wife a poignant wedding-day gift – an emerald-cut aquamarine ring that belonged to Diana, Princess of Wales.

The ring was designed and made in 1997 by Asprey.

Princess Diana was pictured wearing the ring at a private viewing of the Christie's auction of her dresses in 1997. Unlike Meghan, who wears it alone, Diana wore it with a diamond

Report by David Banner
newsdesk@expressandstar.co.uk

eternity band. She was also pictured wearing it with a matching bracelet during a visit to Sydney in 1996.

The bracelet features a larger emerald-cut aquamarine, clasped between six rows of pearls.

The gift was another way for the Duke to involve his mother in the couple's celebrations.

Ms Markle's engagement ring features two diamonds taken from jewellery that belonged to Diana. They

flank the central stone, which was sourced from Botswana.

The Prince designed the engagement ring himself and had it made by court jeweller Cleave and Company.

When the couple got engaged, he said incorporating Diana's diamonds was his way to make sure "she's with us on this crazy journey".

Ms Markle's wedding gown was quite unlike the voluminous puffed style worn by Diana. But the Duchess' evening dress drew comparisons to the late Princess.

Charles' 70th birthday celebrations on the agenda for newlyweds

It was back to business for the Royal Family this week.

The official royal Twitter account released a statement, saying: "Thank you to everyone who came to Windsor and those who followed from around the UK, the Commonwealth, and the world today. 'Congratulations once again to the newly-married Duke and Duchess of Sussex. #royalwedding.'" The celebrations culminated

in a black-tie wedding dinner staged at Frogmore House and hosted by Charles for 200 of the couple's closest friends and family. But Meghan has spoken of her desire to "hit the ground running" as she becomes a royal and there will be no immediate honeymoon.

On Tuesday the couple joined Charles and Camilla on the lawns of Buckingham Palace for a Prince of

Wales 70th Birthday Patronage Celebration. The outdoor event marked the heir to the throne's milestone birthday, which falls in November, by recognising Charles' patronages and military affiliations as well as others involved in charities supported by the royal. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the couple will remain in the UK for a period before taking the traditional post-wedding break.

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The happy newlyweds Prince Harry and Meghan Markle rode through Windsor to greet the thousands



Thousands greeted Harry and Meghan on Long Walk



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Harry and Megan changed into more comfortable clothing once the official ceremony and tour had ended



Crowds camped out for the chance to see the couple



Media at the Hart and Garter Hotel for the wedding

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The next chapter starts in love tale

Report by Shirley Tart
newsdesk@expressandstar.co.uk

Word is that they met in the time honoured way – on a blind date. With Meghan getting a report back from a friend who had met Prince Harry.

And according to one of those in the know, after Meghan had listened to a list of princely attributes, charity work, Army achievements, royal duties and so on, all delivered admirably, she simply asked: "Yes but is he nice?"

Just a few words but they spoke volumes. And now we know. Because it seemed according to some, not much more than one momentous year since love came in and got their world spinning, clearly Harry was more than nice enough for the lady who has just become his wife.

And so, a new day has dawned for a thoroughly nice and very much in-love prince and his stunning bride.

Ever since we first saw them out and about as a couple there seemed no real doubt that this was a relationship which mattered.

Since then the whirlwind romance has been front page day after day.



The loved up pair



Perton Academy held their very own mock wedding



Olga Groves, 90, at Bush Home, Darlaston



Jacqui Ryan, Everyl Geddes and Julie Harding in William Green Road

Party time on the streets

Report by Luke Bartlett
Luke.bartlett@expressandstar.co.uk

ROYAL fever gripped our region as Prince Harry sealed his fairytale romance to Meghan Markle on Saturday.

From village green get-togethers in the Staffordshire sun to an afternoon tea party at a Black Country care home, people from all over took part in the celebrations.

Among those involved with the Royal Wedding celebrations was Naomi Williams, of Wednesbury, whose fiancée, Gary Harding, was on duty in Windsor with the Irish Guards at the wedding. Ms Williams was back home enjoying a street party in William Green Road, Wednesbury, where residents met up to celebrate – waving flags and toasting the couple's special day.

Wolverhampton's Berrybrook Primary School held their own mock wedding between Head Boy and Head Girl, while over in Hixon, near Stafford, volunteers enjoyed watching the big day during an outdoor party on the village green. Abbey Lodge care home in Wolverhampton saw 100-year-old Doris Sully and Jean Spencer, aged 94, enjoy the occasion. Almost 100 people also turned up to a street party organised by David Austwick, aged 67, and his wife Valerie in Fancourt Avenue, Penn, Wolverhampton, on Saturday.



Naomi Williams, of Wednesbury, celebrates. Her fiancée, Gary Harding, was on duty in Windsor with the Irish Guards



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The ingredients

All food is made freshly cooked on order and the dishes have the warmth of homemade Indian cooking. The chefs take great care in selecting the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.



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can cater for up to 40 guests is ideal for work parties birthday celebrations anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service for free within a three-mile radius.

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Light Up for return of indie superstars

Indie superstars Snow Patrol return with their first album in seven years, released tomorrow (Friday).

Wildness finds the band searching for clarity, connection, and meaning, while staying true to the melodic songwriting prowess that brought them to prominence.

It taps into something raw and primitive and lead-singer and songwriter Gary Lightbody is happy to be back. "There are many types of wildness, but I think it can be distilled into two: the wildness of the modern age, all its confusion, illogic and alienation and a more ancient wildness. Something primal, alive and beautiful that speaks to our true connectivity, our passion, our love, our communion with nature and each other. This is the kind of wildness the album is centered around. The loss of it. Trying to reconnect with it. To remember it."

Since their 1998 debut, Songs for Polarbears, Snow Patrol have racked up an impressive number of critical and commercial accolades, including 15 million global album sales, one billion global track streams, five UK platinum albums, and are Grammy, Brit Award and Mercury Music Prize nominated.

After their Fallen Empires tour ended in 2012, band members Gary multi-instrumentalist Johnny McDaid, guitarist Nathan Connolly, bassist Paul Wilson, and drummer Jonny Quinn decided to take a step back from the band, and focus on their own projects.

Gary continued his work with his Tired Pony side project with members of Belle and Sebastian, R.E.M., Reindeer Section and Fresh Young Fellows and moved to Los Angeles to begin writing songs for movies (including "This Is How You Walk On" for 2017's Gifted), and doing a number of high-profile co-writes with Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Biffy Clyro and One Direction. Taking an extended break from Snow Patrol proved to be a source of inspiration, and writing songs that were not pulled directly from his own psyche helped heal what Lightbody considered to be not so much writer's block as life block.

CLARITY

It was in that search for clarity and connection that the songs were written and refined. "I think it's the first record I've ever written that I haven't just asked a bunch of questions."

"I actually tried to figure out why I was unhappy, why I feel out of place, why I'm afraid," says Gary.

"There's nothing really to protect myself from - it's all in the album. I want to remember." This impulse was partially inspired by Lightbody's father, who is suffering from dementia. "I think the album is defined by memory in a lot of ways," says Gary, "including my father's loss of memory."

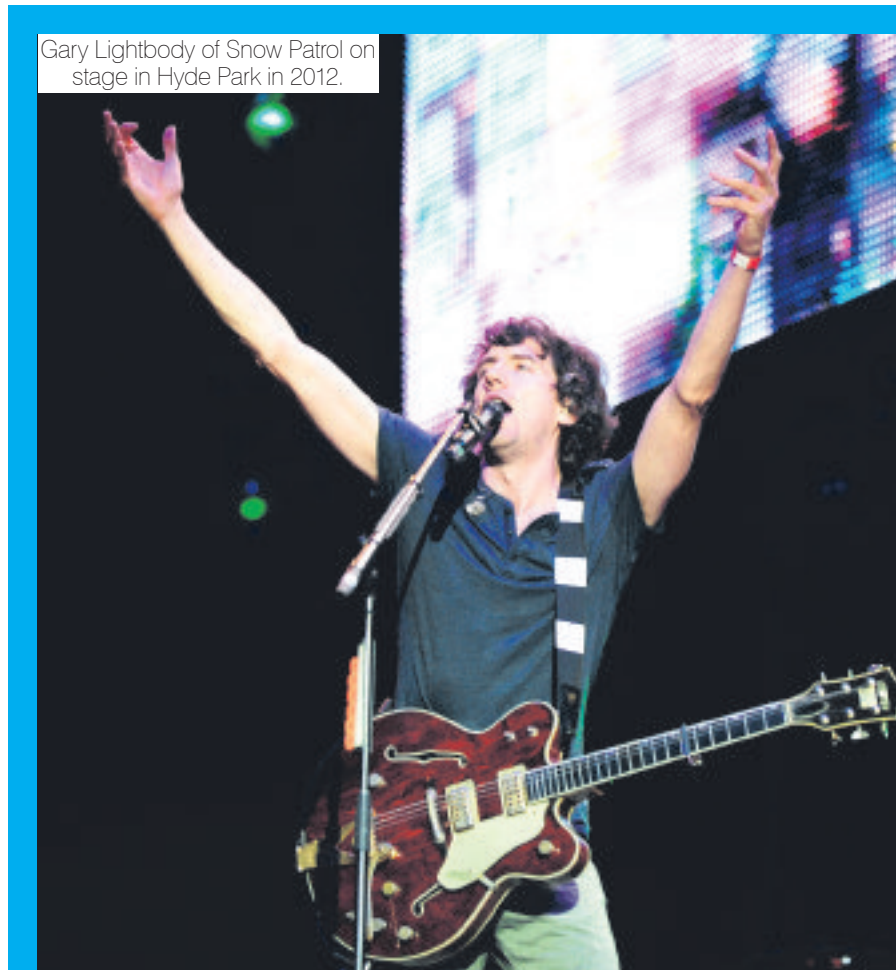
Guitarist Nathan adds: "We finished touring Fallen Empires and did our last festival in 2013 and we decided at that stage that we needed to take a break. We had been going for 10 years non-stop. It was a great 10 years but we'd been together longer and it was hard. It was record, tour, record, tour and we were away a long time."

"A couple of years ago we decided to get back at it. Wildness wasn't a difficult album to make once we were in there. I know Gary had a little writers' block and he had stuff going on and depression, which he's been open about, and alcohol, which is for him to speak about. There were distractions for want of a better word, good and bad, to keep us away from the band. But last year was when we decided it was 100% in the right head space. We were excited and keen. I never thought we wouldn't get back together but we didn't know it would be five years."

"We weren't sipping cocktails on a beach. The longer it takes to make a record the better it has to be when you are coming back. We wanted it to be the best record we could make and it's way beyond what we'd hoped for."

The songs on Wildness are surefooted, displaying a newfound sense of self and purpose, and the rest of the band members rose magnificently to the occasion. The album is produced once more by the great Jackknife Lee, Snow Patrol's longtime producer and collaborator. Life on Earth opens the album with its mission statement, "this

Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol on stage in Hyde Park in 2012.



is something else, this is something else." Heal Me feels like an ancient hymn: "Finally, after way too many years of smashing my body to bits with booze, I met someone who helped me find my way back to health and clarity," says Gary. "This song is about her, that journey and is dedicated to her."

Empress, written for Gary's goddaughters, is fierce and heartfelt, with runaway drums and keen words of wisdom. What If This Is All The Love You Ever Get" is a heartstring-puller, posing the question nobody wants to ask.

The last track, Life and Death, is a rumination, and a human story of love and forgiveness - mostly self-forgiveness for Gary, demonstrating that perhaps everyone ought to take this long between albums to reflect before they write.

"Seamus Heaney, my favourite poet of all time, said at 71 that he was only discovering what some of his poetry means, and this is coming from a Nobel Prize-winning poet. It's a great testament to inspiration," says Gary. "Sometimes it takes you five years to write the thing. Like now. And you know for sure when you finish an album like that, where you've poured over every detail and put every atom of yourself into it, everything makes sense and I bet you I'm never not proud of this record."

Wildness has given Snow Patrol the chance to reconnect with their fans and move forward after five years away.

Nathan adds: "It's good to be back. We were always in touch. We're family. We're brothers, so it wasn't like we didn't see each other at all, quite the opposite."

It's good to be back. We were always in touch. We're family

"It's great to be able to do that outside of the band because that's our connection, that's who we are. We were all supportive of each other's activities."

"The record and the band kind of happens naturally, which is the best thing. At some point, somebody, usually Gary, has some songs he's comfortable or excited about and we all get back together."

Snow Patrol play BBC's Biggest Weekend in Coventry on Sunday.

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Stomp cast in action



You can't beat Stomp, it's got the rhythm of life

THE UNSTOPPABLE smash-hit Stomp is back at Birmingham's Hippodrome from Tuesday until June 2.

Stomp takes familiar objects like newspapers, bins, plastic bags and even the kitchen sink and uses them to create a universal language of rhythm and movement that's exploding with energy.

Stomp has been touring the globe for 27 years with more than 30,000 performances to more than 15 million people in 53 countries. There are four Stomp companies performing at any one time, in New York and on tour in Europe, America and currently in Australia.

Hippodrome spokeswoman Kate Evans says: "It's fresher, faster and funnier than ever. From its humble

beginnings in Brighton in 1991, Stomp has grown into a global phenomenon that will set your toes tapping and your pulse racing. Stomp combines dance, comedy and music into an experience like no other."

Stomp creator Luke Cresswell says: "I think Stomp brings out the drummer in all of us. Rhythm is a language that we use everyday without ever realising. Stomp reminds us of that. Another strong aspect of the show is humour – these two elements can be a very compelling combination."

Co-creator and co-director Steve McNicholas adds: "The performers bring their own personalities to the show. So as the cast changes over the years, so does the show. They all devise their own solos, all create their own costumes, so the show changes organically."

Daughter keeps Drifters legacy alive



A LEGENDARY soul group are drifting back out on tour with a new show performing classic hits from the last six decades.

More than 60 dates have been announced for The Drifters in 2018 to celebrate 65 years in the business, including one night only at Dudley Town Hall tomorrow (Friday).

Now in their 65th year but, unsurprisingly, without any original members The Drifters are on the road with a line-up hand-picked by Tina Treadwell, pictured, president of the Treadwell Entertainment

Group and owner of The Drifters name.

Tina's father George started the group with Clyde McPhatter and brought in several greats such as Johnny Moore and Ben E King.

Her mother Faye was later responsible for bringing the group to the UK and overseeing hits such as You're More Than a Number in My Little Red Book and Kissin' In The Back Row of the Movies. After her parents died, it was down to Tina to continue the legacy of The Drifters name.

Tina, who previously worked for Disney as an executive producer and casting director, believes this

current line-up is one of the best to date and looks forward to the upcoming concert tour. She said: "I am very excited that now in our 65th anniversary year we have a new show for the fans who we invite to join us in celebrating this incredible and everlasting story of The Drifters."

The group has been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame after an incredible list of hits including Saturday Night At The Movies, Come On Over To My Place, Stand By Me, Under The Boardwalk, There Goes My First Love and many more.

Hart to Hart star in play with heart

Hollywood actress Stephanie Powers, pictured, will star alongside British actor Clive Francis when the stage version of poignant romance 84 Charing Cross Road comes to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next week. Based on Helene Hanff's novel, turned into a 1987 film, it is based on the true story about the correspondence between a New York writer and a London bookseller. Ms Powers is best known for playing Jennifer Hart in US detective series Hart to Hart.



Liverpool legends play on despite footy

Liverpool legends Echo and the Bunnymen headline Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday, after some 'will they won't they' over the gig clashing with Liverpool's appearance in the Champions League final. The concert will feature reworkings of some of their classic songs, since they formed on Merseyside in the late 1970s. Canadian collective Broken Social Scene are returning to the UK on tour this summer, including a concert at Birmingham O2 Academy next Thursday (May 31). Last summer they released their fifth album Hug of Thunder, their first in several years. There is a feast of blues at the Robin 2 in Bilston with the Chris Bevington Organisation launching their new album tonight (Thursday) at a double header with Big Wolf Band. Then Ian Parker and his band play next Wednesday and King King on Thursday.

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CHOICE



Ed Sheeran at The Biggest Weekend (BBC1, 6.45pm)
Graham Norton introduces the award-winning singer-songwriter's performance on the main stage at Singleton Park in Swansea, which took place earlier today. The pop superstar returned from a year-long hiatus in 2017, releasing his third studio album + in March of that year and embarking on a world tour to promote the record, playing in some of the largest arenas on the planet, including a show at Manchester's Etihad Stadium this evening. To enable him to perform at both venues, Sheeran opened proceedings on the main stage in Swansea this afternoon.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. (R) **3.45 Film:** Puss in Boots. (2011) Animated comedy spin-off. **5.05** Ready or Not. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.45** **Ed Sheeran at The Biggest Weekend.** Graham Norton introduces the award-winning singer-songwriter's performance on the main stage at Singleton Park in Swansea, which took place earlier today. **7.45** **Who Dares Wins.** Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. **8.25** **Casualty.** Iain and Sam find a confused woman with deep lacerations to her head wandering the streets, and when they take her into the ED, Connie instantly recognises her as a friend from chemotherapy. Bea struggles to regain her confidence on her first day back at work, while Alicia and Ethan have a heart-to-heart and agree to be friends again. **9.15** **All Round to Mrs Brown's.** Brendan O'Carroll dons Agnes's famous cardigan and curls once again, joined by celebrity guests Freddie Flintoff, Jason Manford, Fatima Whitbread, Jonnie Peacock and Clean Bandit. **10.15** BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.35 Film: Kenny.** (2017) Premiere. Documentary about the life of legendary former Liverpool player and manager Kenny Dalglish. Featuring contributions by Dalglish himself, his wife Marina and Alex Ferguson. **11.50** **The Button.** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, as they compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R) **12.25 Film:** The Uninvited. (2009) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Denigiers. **8.00** Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** The World According to Kids. (R) **1.00** SAS: Rogue Warriors. (R) **2.00** The Sinking of the Laconia. (R) **3.30** The Sinking of the Countyside. (R) **4.30** The Biggest Weekend Live. **6.00** **Golf: PGA Championship.** Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the third day of the European Tour's flagship event from Wentworth in Surrey. With commentary by Peter Alliss and Andrew Cotter. **6.45** **RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018.** Monty Don and Joe Swift look back at highlights of their week at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018. Last in the series. **7.45** **Emeli Sande and Clean Bandit at the Biggest Weekend.** Edith Bowman and Claudia Winkleman present further coverage of the four-day BBC Music event, with extended highlights of Aberdeenshire-raised Emeli Sande's set from Scone Palace in Perth, plus Clean Bandit at Singleton Park, Swansea. **9.00** **Sam Smith at the Biggest Weekend.** Greg James is at Singleton Park in Swansea to introduce the whole of the main-stage headline performance by multi-platinum-selling singer and Oscar-winner Sam Smith. The set is expected to include songs from his latest album The Thrill of It All, and the most popular numbers from his 2014 debut In the Lonely Hour. **10.00** **Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds at the Biggest Weekend.** Edith Bowman presents as the former Oasis guitarist and his band headline the main stage at Scone Palace in Perth, with a set drawing on all of their albums plus a few Oasis hits. **11.30** **Later Weekend with Jools Holland.** Extended edition of the music programme, featuring performances by Bjork, the Breeders, Les Amazeons D'Afrique, Deva Mahal, Hailey Tuck and Lump. **12.30 Film:** The Hunter. (2011) **2.05** **Film:** The Past. (2013) **4.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.50** Little Big Shots. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.00** Love Your Garden: NHS Special. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** **ITV News: Weather.** **6.15** **Regional Programme; Weather.** **6.30** **Ninja Warrior UK.** Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. **7.30** **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, with Charlie Brooks, Chizzy Akudolu, Lolly Adefope and Carol Vorderman tasked with saving Earth from any potential alien invasion. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the final round of auditions in the nationwide talent search, with the last few acts competing for the chance to win a place in the semi-finals. **9.15** **The Keith & Paddy Picture Show.** Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness present their version of Jaws, guest starring Stephen Tompkinson, Myleene Klass and Hank O'Sassuna. (R) **9.45** **The Keith & Paddy Picture Show.** Michelle Keegan, Ant and Dec, Phillip Schofield and David Dickinson help Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake the last film of the original Star Wars trilogy, Return of the Jedi. (R) **10.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **10.30** **UEFA Champions League Highlights.** **11.30** **Play to the Whistle.** Boxer David Haye, Dragons' Den star Peter Jones and comedian Sara Pascoe join team captains Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh for the sports-themed comedy panel show. (R) **12.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2018. **10.55** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Niki Lauda. (R) **12.55** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Live. The sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco (Start time 2.00pm). **3.45** Gar SOS. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud visits a house belonging to an engineer that resembles a giant snake. The building was inspired by an ammonite shell and has a scaly, curving structure that spirals over two levels and combines natural materials with the latest modern technology. However, completing the project within the 12-month schedule may not be possible. (R) **8.00** **The Queen's Lost Cousin.** The story of the romance between Prince William of Gloucester and glamorous divorcee, model and former air hostess Zeuzi Starkloff, which ended with the former's tragic death in a plane crash in 1972 at the age of just 30. William was the Queen's cousin and pageboy at her wedding to Prince Philip in 1947, at which time he was fourth in line to the throne. However, his forbidden romance caused consternation at Buckingham Palace, and Starkloff speaks on camera for the first time about their relationship, which began when he was stationed at the British Embassy in Tokyo in 1968. Contributors include William's colleague Shipoo Kitano, his history tutor at Eton, Giles St Aubyn, and Ray Bradbury, the photographer who captured the final picture of the prince before his death. Narrated by Paul McGann. Part of the Secret History strand. (R) **9.00** **Film: Identity Thief.** (2013) Comedy, with Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy. **11.15 Film: Bad Neighbours.** (2014) Comedy, starring Seth Rogen. **1.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.00** My Kitchen Rules. (R) **4.55** Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.10** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.05** Hobbies Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **1.00** Playful Pups Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **2.05** Nightmare Tenants: Get Out of My House. (R) **3.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.05** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents Stewart and Elmore are met with lies and aggression when they track down nearly £3,000, while Paul and Steve chase £30,000 owed by a world-famous Formula one racing team. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v Pakistan. Action from the third day of the First Test in the two-match series, which took place at Lord's. **7.55** **The Dambusters at 75: What Happened Next.** Documentary combining testimony from veterans, original archive footage, expert views and dramatic reconstructions to examine the missions undertaken by the RAF's 617 Squadron after the famous May 1943 raids on the Ruhr and Eder valleys, which were immortalised in 1954 film The Dam Busters. Retired RAF navigator John Nichol delves into the records of the National Archives and finds a treasure trove of fascinating tales, including an account of the night-time bombing of the vital Dortmund-Ems canal, during which the men ended up flying through a ferocious barrage of flak. (R) **9.15** **Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family.** How Victoria struggled to perform her duties as a monarch and a mother throughout the 1860s, until she found a new influence in her life that relieved her depression. **10.15** **Elizabeth I: The Enemy Within.** Catholic plots against Elizabeth abound at home and abroad and there is the problem about what to do with Mary Queen of Scots. Lily Cole stars in this drama-documentary. (R) **11.15** **Football on 5: Championship Play-Off Final.** Fulham v Aston Villa. Colin Murray introduces highlights of the showpiece match. **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe: The Early Years. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Neneh Cherry & First Aid Kit at the Biggest Weekend **8.00** Simple Minds & CHVRCHES at the Biggest Weekend **9.00** Franz Ferdinand & Wolf Alice at the Biggest Weekend **10.00** Underworld at the Biggest Weekend **11.15** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.45** Ultimate Number 1s at the BBC **12.45** Slade at the BBC **1.50** Kings of 70s Romance **2.50** How to Get Ahead: At Medieval Court **3.45** Close **ITV2** **12.10** Britain's Got More Talent **1.10** Ninja Warrior UK **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.15** Film: Ella Enchanted (2004) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Ella Enchanted (2004) **5.15** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **7.10** Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent Live **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.20** Phebs **1.50** CelebAblity **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.00** Teleshopping **ITV3** **2.55** Film: Columbo: The Conspirators (1978) **5.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4** **11.25** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** Film: 633 Squadron (1964) **1.30** TV Racing: Live from Haydock. **4.15** Prawn Stars **6.00** Mr Bean **7.10** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1988) **9.00** Film: Tango & Cash (1989) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Tango & Cash (1989) **11.05** Film: GoodFellas (1990) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: GoodFellas (1990) **1.55** The Professionals **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **11.10** Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **1.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** Young Sheldon **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: 47 Ronin (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** The Intebweeners **3.35** Tattoo Fixers **Film4** **11.00** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** Dunston Checks In (1996) **2.45** ParaNorman (2012) **4.35** Epic (2013) **6.45** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** Cell (2016) **10.55** Creepshow (1982) **1.15** Princess Mononoke (1997) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Hugh Grant

A Very English Scandal (BBC1, 9pm)

Jeremy draws one step closer to his goal of becoming prime minister, but his success is threatened by the return of Norman, demanding that he keep the promises he made. With his political career on the line, Jeremy is determined to do whatever it takes to keep his former lover quiet, a situation complicated by Peter having left for California. Jeremy finds the pressure mounting - leading to a disastrous incident when shots are fired. Hugh Grant and Ben Whishaw star in Russell T Davies fact-based drama.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Britain's Best Home Cook. (R) **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.05** The Coronation. Documentary about the Queen's coronation in 1953, featuring an interview with the monarch, who shares her memories and discusses seeing her father crowned when she was 11. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker presents the show from the Queen's Windsor estate, exploring the grounds in a horse-drawn carriage and discovering tales of the monarch's first visit as a young princess. Adam Henson reports on the livestock breeding on the estate's farms. Anita Rani finds out about a breed of horse saved from extinction, and John Craven investigates a tree-planting scheme. Plus, Sean Fletcher reports from the Royal Welsh Show.

7.30 Taylor Swift & Paloma Faith at the Biggest Weekend. Alex Jones and Nick Grimshaw present the show live from Singleton Park, Swansea, where Taylor Swift will be performing a preview of her forthcoming world tour. Plus highlights of Paloma Faith's set in Coventry, featuring songs from her fourth album The Architect.

9.00 A Very English Scandal. Jeremy draws one step closer to becoming prime minister, but his success is threatened by the return of Norman, demanding that he keep the promises he made.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Imagine - Orhan Pamuk: A Strange Mind. The novelist introduces Alan Yentob to his home city of Istanbul, and reveals how the city's distinctive blend of ancient and modern culture have shaped his own work.

11.35 Film: The Ides of March. (2011) A presidential campaign worker must decide where his loyalties lie as dark secrets come to light. Drama, directed by and starring George Clooney.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Coast. (R) **7.35** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.20** Countryfile Spring Special. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge. (R) **12.00** NW200 Highlights. **1.00** Athletics: Diamond League Eugene Highlights. **2.00** The Sinking of the Laconia. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** The Biggest Weekend Live.

6.00 Golf: PGA Championship. Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the final day of the European Tour's flagship event from Wentworth in Surrey. The famous West Course always seems to throw up some last-round drama, especially in 2014 when Rory McIlroy came from seven shots behind with a closing round of 66 to finish one stroke clear of Shane Lowry. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.

7.00 Million Pound Menu. Fred Sirieix welcomes another two street-food brands to Manchester, where the owners pitch their businesses to high-street investors in the hope of opening their own restaurants. Up this week are Finca, a Cuban street-food brand whose founders Oli, Joe and Michael are looking to secure £150,000 to open in their home town of Liverpool. Meanwhile, former waitress Chelsea Campbell hopes to tap into the increasing number of adults eating less meat with her vegan junk-food idea Wholesome Junkies. (R)

8.00 Steve Backshall v the Monster Mountain. Steve attempts to climb the north face of the Eiger, braving ice-covered cliffs, blinding blizzards and a dangerous storm front. (R)

9.00 Florence and the Machine at the Biggest Weekend. The band live by Florence Welch take to the main stage at Singleton Park in Swansea, performing songs from their back catalogue alongside material from upcoming album High as Hope.

10.00 Liam Gallagher at the Biggest Weekend. The singer performs on the main stage at Coventry's War Memorial Park, playing songs from his debut solo album as well as classic Oasis anthems.

11.30 International Rugby Union. **12.30** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Build Up. Build-up to the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco. **1.45** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco (Start-time 2.10pm). **2.30** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Reaction. Reaction from the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco. **5.30** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. **7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel return to continue their renovation adventures in France. Two-and-a-half years have passed since the couple swapped their flat in Southend for a 19th-century chateau in France costing only £280,000, and in that time, the pair have worked to transform the derelict property into a fairytale castle. However, around half of the 45 are yet to receive adequate attention, the couple's fledgling events business demands attention, and the outbuildings are still in need of conversion. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Cheryl Finner and Benoit Blin challenge the bakers to prepare two batches of perfectly uniform miniature classics, before turning a classic eton mess into a masterpiece.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Emily reflects on her past as she works in the colonies, recalling her life as an academic before the rise of Gilead, and the events that led her to realise the danger to come. She tries to flee the country, but when her marriage is forcibly annulled, she finds family torn apart. In the present, she encounters a new arrival in the colonies, whose presence stirs up tension and mistrust. Offered adjusts to a new way of life as she hides out in a place with a grisly history. Marisa Tomei guest stars.

10.10 Film: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. (2013) The victor in a televised battle to the death returns to the arena to face other past champions. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth.

12.55 Film: The Family. (2013) 2.55 Best Laid Plans. (R) 3.50 My Kitchen Rules. (R) 4.45 Shipping Wars UK. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** Eat the Week. (R) **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Bake Off: The Professionals. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Build Up. Build-up to the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco. **1.45** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco (Start-time 2.10pm). **2.30** Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix Live Reaction. Reaction from the sixth round of the season at Circuit de Monaco. **5.30** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News. **7.00** Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel return to continue their renovation adventures in France. Two-and-a-half years have passed since the couple swapped their flat in Southend for a 19th-century chateau in France costing only £280,000, and in that time, the pair have worked to transform the derelict property into a fairytale castle. However, around half of the 45 are yet to receive adequate attention, the couple's fledgling events business demands attention, and the outbuildings are still in need of conversion. (R)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals. Cheryl Finner and Benoit Blin challenge the bakers to prepare two batches of perfectly uniform miniature classics, before turning a classic eton mess into a masterpiece.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Emily reflects on her past as she works in the colonies, recalling her life as an academic before the rise of Gilead, and the events that led her to realise the danger to come. She tries to flee the country, but when her marriage is forcibly annulled, she finds family torn apart. In the present, she encounters a new arrival in the colonies, whose presence stirs up tension and mistrust. Offered adjusts to a new way of life as she hides out in a place with a grisly history. Marisa Tomei guest stars.

10.10 Film: The Hunger Games: Catching Fire. (2013) The victor in a televised battle to the death returns to the arena to face other past champions. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Liam Hemsworth.

12.55 Film: The Family. (2013) 2.55 Best Laid Plans. (R) 3.50 My Kitchen Rules. (R) 4.45 Shipping Wars UK. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Moly. (R) **6.45** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Rusty Rivets. **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Footage. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Film: Five Children and It. (2004) Children's fantasy, with Kenneth Branagh. **1.50** Access. **1.55** Film: Five Children and It. (2004) Concluded. **2.35** Film: Madeline. (1998) Children's comedy, with Hatty Jones and Frances McDormand. **3.35** Access. **3.40** Film: Madeline. (1998) Concluded. **4.25** Film: The Parent Trap. (1998) Comedy remake, starring Lindsay Lohan. **5.25** Access. **5.30** Film: The Parent Trap. (1998) Concluded.

6.55 5 News Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Pakistan. Action from the fourth day of the First Test in the two-match series, which took place at Lord's.

8.00 Agatha Christie's Crooked House. Adaptation of the mystery novel, starring Max Irons and Terence Stamp. Charles, the son of the assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard returns to London from Cairo following the end of the Second World War, only to discover his fiancée's grandfather has been murdered. He uses his father's connections to become involved in the investigation, and finds the dead man's second wife a likely suspect. However, nobody in the household has an alibi, and Charles' fiancée may have the clearest motive for murder. (R)

10.05 Top of the Box 1989 with Matthew Kelly. The presenter takes a look back at the most popular TV from 1989, including Bread, Only Fools and Horses, The Bill, 'Allo 'Allo!, Birds of a Feather, Neighbours and Byker Grove.

11.50 Best of Bad TV: The 80s. (R) **1.10** Football on 5: League 1 Play-Off Final. **1.40** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Secret Life of Marilyn Monroe: Affairs & Heartbreak. (R) **4.40** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Biggest Weekend **8.30** How to Build a Jumbo Jet Engine **9.30** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **10.30** Jonathan Meades on Jargon **11.30** Amazon Abyss **12.30** Civilisations Stories: Innovation and Inspiration in Birmingham **1.00** How to Build a Jumbo Jet Engine **2.00** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways **3.00** Jonathan Meades on Jargon **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.30 You've Been Framed! Gold **1.35** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **2.40** FYI Daily **2.45** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.20** Britain's Got Talent **4.35** Britain's Got More Talent Live **5.40** Film: Jurassic World (2015) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: Jurassic World (2015) **8.00** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15** Film: The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **10.45** Family Guy **12.10** American Dad! **1.10** The Cleveland Show **1.35** Through the Keyhole **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.40 A Touch of Frost **6.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Cilla **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.00** Liverpool **3.15** Road to Avonlea **5.05** George and Mildred **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

9.00 Film: The Enforcer (1976) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Enforcer (1976) **11.05** Film: Sudden Death (1995) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Sudden Death (1995) **1.15** Fifth Gear **2.15** The Protectors **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.20 The Goldbergs **1.20** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.50** Young Sheldon **2.20** Film: The Core (2003) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners: Their Favourite **12.15** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.05** Black-ish **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Rugrats Movie (1999) **1.00** The Rugrats in Paris: The Movie (2000) **2.35** Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.40** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **7.05** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **9.00** Spy (2015) A deskbound CIA agent goes into action for the first time to battle an arms dealer and avert a global disaster. Comedy adventure, with Melissa McCarthy and Jason Statham. **11.20** Odd Thomas (2013) **1.10** Dressed to Kill (1980) **3.20** Close

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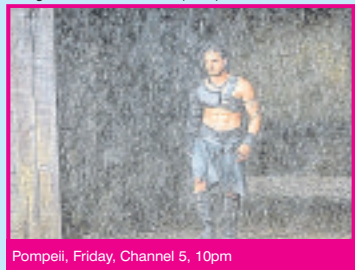
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Rush Hour, ITV, 10.20pm
A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung and Tom Wilkinson. (1998)

TUESDAY
A Woman Deceived, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A wealthy young widow marries the man who organised the event at which her husband was killed, and for a while her life seems perfect - until financial concerns begin to create tension. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott, Jay Pickett, David DeLuise and Brian Krause. (2017)

WEDNESDAY
Abducted Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After her husband is abducted on his way to work, Ann Bradshaw and her teenage daughter Casey find themselves in danger when they help the police investigate the kidnapping. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga and Nicole Munoz. (2016)



Pompeii, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Rio Conchos, BBC2, 12.45pm
A shipment of rifles is stolen by a former Confederate general in the aftermath of the American Civil War, and he begins selling them to hostile Apaches. A cavalry major is assigned to bring back the weapons, aided by a mismatched band including one of his fellow officers, a duplicitous Mexican and a drunken former rebel. Western, starring Richard Boone and Stuart Whitman. (1964)

FRIDAY
Pompeii, Channel 5, 10pm
A gladiator in the ancient Roman city falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, who is being forced into marriage with a corrupt senator. When the nearby volcano Vesuvius erupts, he fights to save her and escape the destruction of the city. Disaster movie, starring Kit Harington. (2014)

New adaptation looks far from a tragic affair

Even at 80, the Oscar winner and all-round acting legend Anthony Hopkins can still disappear into a role.

Richard Eyre, who has directed this new adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear, reveals that while they were filming on location, a member of the public mistook Hopkins for a homeless man.

Eyre told Digital Spy: "A woman in a mobility scooter rode up to Tony, and said, 'You know, there's a hostel up the road... so you might want to take your shopping trolley down there'."

But while Hopkins may have been unrecognisable, there are plenty of very familiar faces among the cast.

Of course, that shouldn't really come as a surprise. When it comes to bringing Shakespeare to the screen, the BBC has pulled off some real coups.

But King Lear is arguably the most impressive yet, giving viewers three Oscar winners for the price of one - as well as Hopkins in the title role, it

also stars Emma Thompson as his daughter Goneril and Jim Broadbent as Gloucester.

They head a cast that also includes recent Hamlet Andrew Scott, Emily Watson, Florence Pugh, Jim Carter, John Macmillan, Jim Carter, Christopher Eccleston, Tobias Menzies and Karl Johnson.

Executive producers Colin Callender and Sonia Friedman credit Eyre with assembling such an incredible collection of actors, but the play itself was probably also a draw, especially as some consider it to be Shakespeare's finest tragedy.

This version is set in a fictionalised modern-day England, which is now a military dictatorship ruled over by Lear. He decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters according to which of them professes to love him most. The youngest, Cordelia (Pugh), refuses play along and is banished as a result.

However, while the eldest two, Goneril and Regan (Watson), may have been prepared to publicly

flatter their father, it's a very different story once they have acquired power.

Meanwhile, Lear's prime minister, Gloucester, is having family problems of his own as he is betrayed by his son Edmund (Macmillan) and his other son, Edgar (Scott), is forced to go into hiding. As Lear loses his grip on his sanity, the kingdom descends into war...

It's a story that's been around for centuries - it's believed that Shakespeare took his inspiration from the second edition of The Chronicles of England, Scotlande, and Irelande by Raphael Holinshed, published in 1587 - but Scott is hoping that this version can bring it to a whole new audience.

The Sherlock star told Digital Spy: "People sometimes think, 'Shakespeare's not really for me, because I don't understand that particular word', and that doesn't matter in any way."

I hate the idea that this kind of drama is only for a select few...; that's not the way it should be."



Anthony Hopkins stars as King Lear, Monday, BBC2, 9.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Peter Kay's Car Share - The Finale BBC1, 10pm

The recent one-off unscripted episode may have been a treat, but what many Car Share fans really wanted was an instalment that finally resolved the will-they-won't-they storyline between workmates Kayleigh (Sian Gibson) and John (Peter Kay). That's because the second and supposedly final series ended last year with Kayleigh getting out of the car, seemingly for good, after she confessed her feelings for John and he struggled to open up about his own emotions. It was a surprisingly downbeat ending to a usually heart-warming sitcom, and 100,000 viewers signed an online petition insisting Kay and Gibson couldn't leave it there. So, we're getting a final edition to reveal what happened next - but will fans get the happy ending they've been hoping for or will they have to start another petition?

TUESDAY
Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? BBC2, 9pm

New series. Tens of thousands of children across England take the 11 plus selection test each year, and for the first time in decades there are plans to expand selective education. Filmed over one term with access to three schools in Bexley, which has a

fully selective education system, cameras follow children and teachers to see how selection impacts on education. This edition follows children from Upland Primary School as they prepare to take the test right up until results day. They include 10-year-old Joanita, who has had extra lessons outside school for nearly three years in preparation.

WEDNESDAY
The Big Crash Diet Experiment BBC1, 8pm

It used to be the case that people looking to shed the pounds were advised to avoid crash diets that promised quick results in favour of doing it 'sensibly' by making smaller, long-term lifestyle changes. But now a series of scientific trials have led researchers to ask whether some seemingly extreme weight-loss methods might be the answer to the obesity crisis. To see if the results of these highly controlled studies translate to the real world, A&E doctor and presenter Dr Javid Abdelmonem, who up until now has been suspicious of crash dieting, and a team of experts are putting four volunteers on an extreme

10-week programme. In the process, they'll be showing why dieting isn't just about weight loss, but also about the health benefits that come with it.

Carry on Brussels Channel 4, 10pm

The second of three programmes following an eclectic group of British MEPs as they brace themselves for Brexit. Ukip's Hermann Kelly thinks Brexit is in danger of going soft, so sets off to find stories of EU excesses to feed to sympathetic journalists. Lone Liberal Democrat MEP Catherine Bearder has the ear of the Parliament's chief Brexit negotiator Guy Verhofstadt, and determines to use her ally to frustrate Brexit. However, when she votes against the UK government, her tactics risk backfiring as the lead negotiator David Davis calls for her to be sacked.



Carry on Brussels, Wednesday, Channel 4, 10pm

THURSDAY
Britain's Best Home Cook BBC1, 8pm

Week five of the home cooking contest sees the contestants starting out with dessert as they put their individual spin on a chocolate pudding. The sweet dishes served to the judges include an ambitious chocolate charlotte, a Black Forest gateau and one that integrates a root vegetable. Next they are given just one hour to invent a sweet or savoury dish using aubergine or tofu as the key ingredient - before the elimination round sees the weakest cooks following a recipe for a classic oriental dish. Presented by Claudia Winkleman.

FRIDAY
Tracey Breaks the News BBC1, 9.30pm

New series. Tracey Ullman reacts to the events of the moment, alongside her incarnations of politicians including Theresa May, Nicola Sturgeon and new for this second series, Michael Gove and Jacob Rees-Mogg. Jeremy Corbyn has an awkward meeting with an old friend, beleaguered German chancellor Angela Merkel reassesses her image and media mogul Rupert Murdoch spends some quality time with one-time model and now his better half Jerry Hall. With Ben Miller.

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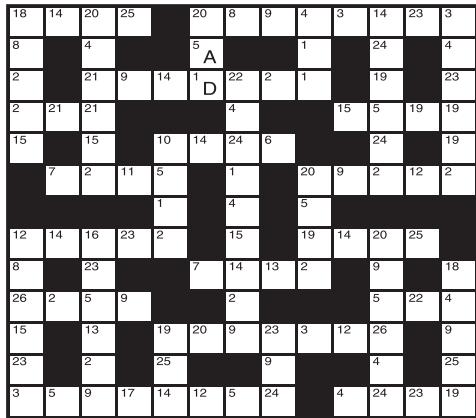
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	T	G	N	J	K	P	H	W	F	C	M	B
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	U	X	Q	I	E	Z	A	O	L	V	D	S

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

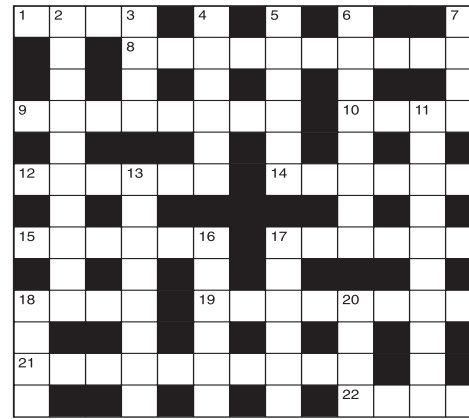
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Current recessions (4)
8. They make their names as proverbial listeners (10)
9. Fellow actor? (8)
10. Divan, so far unfinished (4)
12. Second importance (6)
14. Quake in the centre, more or less (6)
15. Disturb the master flow (6)
17. Throw the French in a stronghold (6)
18. If there's a man around he's from the U.S. (4)
19. They secure temporary accommodation (4-4)
21. Extensive property (10)
22. Southern timber used in window construction (4)

Down

2. Paperhanger who mails his account? (4-6)
3. Check part of the sailing tackle (4)
4. Father divides the remains of a meal (6)
5. Thanks! What's borrowed is to be a gift (6)
6. I left the priests in churches (8)
7. A major land-mass, though it could be minor (4)
11. Twelve-inch candles used in theatres (10)
13. Train for employment (8)
16. Decimal used in some tricky calculations (6)
17. Frank is able - and proved it (6)
18. We're breaking up the vessel (4)
20. Gives someone their due (4)



Quick Clues:

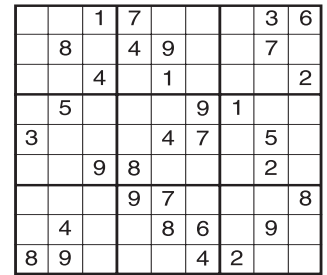
Across

1. Experience (4)
8. Retort (6,4)
9. Flying beetle (8)
10. Orient (4)
12. Of the sea (6)
14. Invent (6)
15. Centre (6)
17. Abrupt (6)
18. Drawback (4)
19. Bully (8)
21. Imposter (10)
22. Augments (4)

Down

2. Diggings (10)
3. Woman (4)
4. Seek to attain (6)
5. Entitled (6)
7. Burlesque (4)
11. Nourishment (10)
13. Poor (8)
16. Symbol (6)
17. War-cry (6)
18. Unchanged (4)
20. Harden by heat (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	6	4	2	7	3	5	9
2	5	4	3	1	9	6	7	8
3	7	6	5	8	1	2	4	9
4	7	5	9	8	6	2	3	1
5	2	3	1	4	5	7	9	6
6	4	8	2	9	1	5	6	7
7	9	1	5	6	3	4	8	2
8	6	2	8	7	4	9	1	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Onion; 8 Trouble; 9 Nowhere; 10 Voter; 12 Constrains; 15 Auctioneer; 18 Tress; 19 Gleaner; 21 Consort; 22 Eaten.
 Down: 1 Counteract; 2 Views; 3 Once; 4 Stress; 5 Converse; 6 Abstain; 11 Restaurant; 13 Omission; 14 Screens; 16 Negate; 17 Unity; 20 Eden.
 QUICK - Across: 7 Idler; 8 Calling; 9 Habitue; 10 Rapid; 12 Patrician; 15 Subterfuge; 18 Yield; 19 Elector; 21 Recital; 22 Swing.
 Down: 1 Dishonesty; 2 Globe; 3 Fret; 4 Accept; 5 Alarming; 6 Simpler; 11 Discourage; 13 Anecdote; 14 Absence; 16 Feeble; 17 Stain; 20 Elise.

Quiz

1. In which S American city did Erich Honecker die?
2. To which organisation did the ship Rainbow Warrior belong?
3. Who founded the Church of Scientology in 1954?
4. Which countries were joined in the Act of Union of 1707?
5. Who wrote The Firm and The Pelican Brief?
6. By what name is tetanus or trismus also known?
7. Which composer wrote The Pines of Rome?
8. Of which group of islands is Naxos the largest?
9. Which singer's departure closed the musical Piaf?
10. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 13; 2 Sark; 3 Ricky Gervais; 4 Louis Mountbatten; 5 Paddy Ashdown; 6 Boris Pasternak; 7 A primate; 8 Twilight of the Gods; 9 Popocatepetl; 10 Tuberculosis.
 Niner: MODULATES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

674385 gives a dwelling,
 6745841 gives a second dwelling,
 982 gives a third dwelling.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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NEW

Blackberry Lane, HALESOWEN £750 pcm+Fees
A superb 2 bedroom detached house with separate annex to rear, fully refurbished to a high standard comprising of 2 reception rooms, fitted breakfast kitchen, guest w.c., 2 double bedrooms, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing. Not to be missed. EPC: C



LET

Mayfield Road, HALESOWEN £695 pcm+Fees
A refurbished link detached bungalow in a cul-de-sac location, corner position, briefly comprising of: 2 good size bedrooms, fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and a small dishwasher, gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, bathroom with shower, garage with plumbing for washing machine, driveway parking. EPC: E



NEW

The Avenue, ROWLEY REGIS £625 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build property in a very convenient location close to train & bus links. This 2 bed semi-detached is finished to an exceptional standard. The property features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen with cooker/hob, downstairs w.c., 2 double bedrooms, rear garden, driveway parking, double glazing and gas central heating. MINIMUM CONTRACT OF 12 MONTHS. EPC: B



Richmond Street, HALESOWEN £625 pcm+Fees
A modern style mid terraced in central Halesowen close to all amenities and bus links to Birmingham City Centre. The property comprises fitted kitchen, lounge with fireplace/gas fire, patio doors leading to a small maintenance free garden, 2 double bedrooms and family bathroom with shower. The property has a driveway & also benefits from new windows and rear parking. EPC: D



Brett Young Close, HALESOWEN £600 pcm+Fees
An impressive 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. This modern apartment features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen, family bathroom, allocating parking. Also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. MINIMUM 12 MONTH CONTRACT. EPC: B



NEW

Aqua Court, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. A ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and not far from Rowley Regis Train Station. Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



LET

Bloomfield Street North, HALESOWEN £595 pcm+Fees
A superbly well presented fully refurbished 2 bedroom terraced property in this very well sought after area having lounge, stunning fitted kitchen with a small fridge and small freezer, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating. Must be viewed to appreciate. NO GARDEN. EPC: C



LET

Woodgate Gardens, BARTLEY GREEN £595 pcm+Fees
Improved & deceptively large end terraced house, newly carpeted with entrance porch, hallway, large lounge, downstairs WC, kitchen/dining area with patio doors leading to garden, 3 good size bedrooms, shower room, off road parking. EPC: D



The Heathlands, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+Fees
Modern 2 bedroom mid terrace property close to Blackheath Town Centre and not far from Rowley Regis Train Station. Featuring a spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, upstairs bathroom, a very large master bedroom and a single bedroom, small rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing, driveway parking. EPC: C



Brett Young Close, HALESOWEN £595 pcm+Fees
An impressive 1st floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre briefly comprising of: 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, modern kitchen with appliances, modern bathroom with shower, allocating parking. EPC: B



Grange Crescent, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
We are pleased to offer this extremely well presented 2 bedroom 1st floor flat conveniently located close to Halesowen Town Centre. The property comprises of: lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, large driveway, rear private garden & garage. EPC: D



LET

The Infield, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built-in fridge/freezer and washer/dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Not to be missed. EPC: C



Harvington Road, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished 1st floor apartment close to Halesowen Town Centre. Set in a quiet block with communal gardens and parking for 1 car. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, large lounge with a bay window, bathroom with shower, kitchen with a small under counter fridge. EPC: C



LET

Stourbridge Road, STOURBRIDGE £575 pcm+Fees
● FRESHLY RE-DECORATED ● An unfurnished 3 bedroom mid terraced property with off road parking to the rear, close to local amenities and main bus routes. The property is well presented and comprises of: entrance porch, hallway, lounge with feature fireplace, modern kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, private rear garden. EPC: D



NEW

Coxs Lane, CRADLEY HEATH £550 pcm+Fees
An unfurnished large end terraced house ideally located for Cradley Heath shops, bus and train links. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, upstairs bathroom with shower, upstairs are 2 good size bedrooms, gas central heating, rear low maintenance garden. EPC: E



Stour Court, HALESOWEN £550 pcm+Fees
Situating in a highly sought after location, and an opportunity not to be missed, is this stunning 1st floor apartment featuring a light and spacious lounge, beautifully fitted kitchen, 2 large bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed, allocated parking. EPC: C



Southgate Way, DUDLEY £525 pcm+Fees
A stunning and spacious well presented furnished to suit 1st floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



LET

Wordsley Court, WORDSLEY £525 pcm+Fees
1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Green & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



Stourbridge Road, HALESOWEN £495 pcm+Fees
A lovely ground floor flat that has been fully re-furnished to a very high standard. Within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring large living room, kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, beautiful shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: D



NEW PRICE

Alwin Road, ROWLEY REGIS £450 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed and electric heating. The accommodation, which has been refurbished recently and features a reception porch, lounge spacious lounge with a bay window, large kitchen, 1 double bedroom with built in wardrobe, bathroom with shower, communal gardens and parking. EPC: D



Upper High Street, CRADLEY HEATH £395 pcm+Fees
Modern ground floor flat close to Cradley Heath train station & all bus routes. Featuring an open plan lounge/fitted kitchen with appliances, hallway to 1 double bedroom, bathroom suite with shower, electric central heating, communal garden to rear of property, on road parking. Only 1 months security deposit ● 1 months rent in advance. EPC: C

PROPERTY



Spacious dormer bungalow has been renovated

A fabulous dormer style-bungalow, Greenleighs in Sedgley, is situated in a quiet backwater on the Northway development.

Having arguably one of the most sought-after prestigious address in Sedgley, it is for sale through Hunters Estate Agents at £380,000.

The property has been completely renovated and re-designed by the current owners providing high standard and excellent size living

**SEDGLEY
£380,000**

accommodation. The property briefly includes an entrance porch, a large entrance hallway, a formal lounge, a sitting room, a dining room, a bathroom, a breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom on the ground floor.

There are two further bedrooms and a shower room on the first floor.

There are also a number of storage cupboards around the property, as well as storage into the eaves on the first floor.

Outside, there is an excellent sized garage, a driveway providing off-road parking and a beautifully landscaped rear garden.

Viewings are being highly recommended to appreciate just what this home has to offer.

Contact Hunters Estate Agents on 01902 672274.



A period home with stunning distant views comes with many original features throughout

Being remarkably spacious and having panoramic distant views, this stunning four-double-bedroomed Victorian family home in Vale Street, Upper Gornal, is new to the property market.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £350,000.

Having many fine period features – including a Minton tiled hall flooring and a marble fireplace.

Having gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation

**UPPER GORNAL
£350,000**

briefly comprises an imposing reception hall (with a cellar below), a formal dining room, an elegant lounge with a bay and a through breakfast kitchen. On the first floor is a gallery landing, three double bedrooms and a bathroom.

On the second floor is a fourth double bedroom.

In more detail this property is well decorated throughout in neutral shades.

The reception hall has a spindled staircase off. The kitchen is spacious and has tiled flooring and space for a table and chairs. The dining room has tiled flooring and a fireplace.

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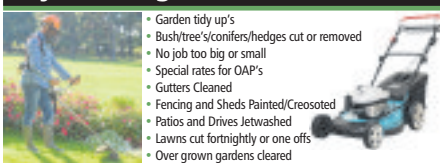
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Two seater sofa, armchair,
pouffee, Ashley Manor,
silver/blue, excellent condition.
£1,750 ono.
Can deliver.
01902 895526.

TWO LEATHER 3 seater settees, in
very light grey, only £50 each.
Please call 07969 531514.

WHITE GLOSS Wall unit, glass
display cabinets, cupboards below.
Immaculate. H 5ft 11" w 2ft 11" d
18". £300. 07909 717976.

In Your Garden

**C B SHEDS
& FENCING**
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

Items For Sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE
REMINDED**
That the Business
Advertisements (Disclosure)
Order of 1977 requires that
advertisements must clearly
differentiate between Private
and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED
Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also
box profile and PVC/polycarb.
David Broxton on 07834 488558.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertise-
ment today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

**FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS**
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowman/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@
hotmail.com



**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
FOR DIE CAST CARS /
LORRIES**
Britains, Corgi, Dinky,
Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint
and Mamod Engines.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897
or 07976 691563.

WANTED
ALL MILITARIA ITEMS
FROM WARS WANTED BY
COLLECTOR
Swords, medals, helmets etc,
single or full items.
German, Japanese, British.
Will collect.
Very good prices paid
07511 500337.

OLD VIOLINS WANTED
Must have a 14 inch main
body. Needs to be over 100
years old. Any condition consid-
ered.
07922 618451

READERS ARE ADVISED
to carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

WORLD GLOBE drinks trolley
wanted.
01902 761544 or 07860 843421.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

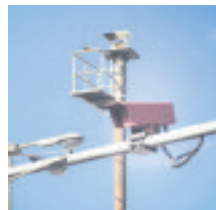
**SELL IT FAST
SELL IT LOCAL**
01902 317878
Classified Ads

t.v. / home
entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,
CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts
and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT
I NEEDED"**



"TV Link are really
pleased with their
response from their
Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business
results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at
your service

Aerials

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV
wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT
I NEEDED"**



"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from
my Classified
Advertising Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

Building Services
DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Alarms/Security

**PREMIER
ALARMS**

Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. £795
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**CLASSIFIEDS
"JUST WHAT
I NEEDED"**



"I am extremely happy with
the service I get from my
Express & Star Classified Sales
Representatives and would
recommend them to anyone! They
have done a very professional job
with my website so I get online
enquiries as well now."

Michael -
Portway Fencing

For great business
results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by Express & Star

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken,
07852 172641 / 07710 360327 /
01902 534021

Landscaping

J D's Landscaping and Building
Bricklaying and all paving work
Fencing and gates
Conservatory and porch bases
FREE QUOTES
Call John 01384 326405 or
07719 807564

Plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work
Undertaken. All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs,
Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 /
07580 465449
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed. Load Removal or Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

**Grinsells
Skip Hire LTD**
Mini, Midi, Maxi, Large Skips.
Monday to Friday
Saturday half day.
0121 555 6060

4

Pets &
Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and using
guns.

Pets Corner

BUDGIES FOR SALE, various,
pretty colours, £10 each. Sale due
to ill health. 01384 873915.

EIGHT WEEK OLD kittens, weaned
and litter trained. £20.
07923 678885

TWO LARGE WHITE Birdcages,
40ins x 17x 13ins, £15 each.
01902 656407.

**BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL**
01902 317878
Classified Ads

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

Properties Wanted

**WANT TO SELL YOUR
HOUSE FAST?**
**WE BUY
TODAY**

— COMPLETE IN AS LITTLE AS 7 DAYS
— HASSLE-FREE & FEE-FREE
— ANY HOUSE SITUATION OR CONDITION
"They take all the stress out of selling a house.
They are considerate, understanding, helpful
and supportive. Everything was
straightforward and they eased
a difficult time in our lives."
- Carolyn J., Verified Client

Contact us today for a free, no-obligation offer
0800 298 3140
www.webuytoday.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

5

Business &
Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to
take appropriate professional
advice before entering into any
obligations.

6

Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accom-
modation Agencies Act 1953, for an
Agency to charge a fee simply for
the registration of your require-
ments and/or supplying particulars
of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments/contracts.

A SMART SINGLE EN SUITE room
in a Shared house, Netherton.
£85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks
deposit. 07940 116130.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commit-
ments.

Properties Wanted

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call **0121 663 1403**

or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

Sandwell area: Call **0121 696 4154**

Walsall & Cannock area: Call **01922 432049**

Wolverhampton: Call **01902 489901**

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7

Jobs

Employment Wanted

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Seeks part-time accountancy / bookkeeping.
Based in Halesowen.
07860 357143.

EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER
requires employment, any type of
brick work. **07534 767256.**

Nursing & Carers

NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT required
Grange Hill House 0121 550 1313.
Senior Care Assistant required
Beechcroft Residential Home 0121
429 2993.

8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500

MUST BE SEEN

AUDI A4 CONVERTIBLE

Blue, blue hood,
tan leather interior,
New cam belt and water pump
fitted.

MoT'd, low mileage.

£1,995 ono.

07948 146611.

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 September & 3-4 December
STOKE-ON-TRENT: 6-7 August **TELFORD:** 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 25-26 July & 17-18 November

Accredited
ocn

Learn how to take blood ...

TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

Introduction to Phlebotomy

- **TWO DAY COURSE** - Nationally Recognised
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required

For more info,
or to book online: www.geopace.com

High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Full Time General

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

7 SEATER

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO MPV 7 SEATER

2009, Diesel, 1560cc, beige, auto, 65,000 miles.

£2,995 ono

01902 688615 /

07973 282911.



FIAT 500

2011, 55,600 miles,
green metallic, EVW, stop/start,
AC, Bluetooth, usb, glass roof,
CD player, CL, MOT, 1 previous
owner, alloys, tinted rear
windows, spare wheel, tool kit,
FSH.

£4,300 ono.

07918 621300 (no text)

MUST BE SEEN

FIESTA ECO BOOST

65 reg., Titanium,
15,000 miles, 5 door.

Grey, lady owner,

HPI clean.

Fantastic car all round,

£5,900.

07799 352266.



FORD B-MAX

Limited Edition, 16 plate, 1388
engine, 10,000 miles, silver
metallic, black roof, black
alloys, petrol, blue tooth, radio /
CD, aircon, front fog lights, elec-
tric window, sliding back doors,
Immaculate condition.

£8,000

07788 684373.

CLASSIC CAR

MERCEDES 500 SL

1983.
Hard and soft tops.
Graphite with grey leather.
78,000 miles.
FSH. Excellent condition.
May consider Part Exchange.
£17,995.
01562 710289.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI COOPER HATCH

2007.
65,000 miles.
Excellent condition.
Chilli Red with recent stripes
and Union Jack on roof.
MoT February 19,
New battery.
some service history.
Good runner and reliable.

£2,995 ono.

07809 286268.



NISSAN QASHQAI

61 plate, 54,000 Miles, White,
FSH. Good price for mileage.
Very good condition. Runs very
well. MoT till November.
No longer need large SUV.
Large boot.
£6,300
07946 057547.



VW GOLF S SDI 2.0L

117k miles, black pearlescent,
FSH, climate control, Scirocco
alloys, new tyres, new cam belt,
e/w front, MoT November
2018.

£2,250 ono

07768 234576.

Cars Under £1500

LOW MILEAGE

FORD KA

1200cc, 2007 plate.
Full MoT, low miles.

Two owners.

Lovely condition,
£895.

07412 876308.

BARGAIN

CITROEN C3 DESIRE HDI

06, 5dr hatchback.
Diesel car 1.4.
Cheap tax, £30 for 12 months.
Good clean car inside and out.

Mileage 129,000 miles.

MoT to October 2018.

Any trial welcome.

£875 ono.

01902 653442.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FORD FIESTA 1.2

2002.

5 door.

MoT April 2019.

Eight service stamps.

£550.

01902 830969.



FORD FIESTA 1.4 FLAME

2004 reg. MoT April 2019,
immaculate paintwork/interior,
electric windows, air condition-
ing, radio/cd, reliable, garaged,
£800.

Viewing Birmingham

0121 384 7888 or 07771 428793.



PEUGEOT 206 SW

Peugeot SW XSI. New 2004.
Estate Car. 12 Months MoT.
Petrol cc. Only 46,000 Miles, 2
owners from new
£1,495 ono
07885518030

RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS

2006/56 86,000 Miles, silver,
Mot December, pas, c/l part
history. looks and drives lovely.

£1,200 ono

07968369680

FOR A QUICK SALE

VAUXHALL ASTRA

5dr hatchback, 1600cc, 2003,
MOT till August, silver, mileage
approx 75,000, petrol, good,
clean and reliable Family car
only

£695 ono,

for quick sale, any trial.

07928 679949 /

01902 262001.

GOOD RUNNER

VW POLO 1.4

2004, MoT until April 2019.

Grey colour, 79,500 miles, very
good condition.

Drives superbly.

£875 ono.

07401 323243.

Classic Cars

CLASSIC CAR

AUSTIN 10 CAMBRIDGE

1937,

loads of history,

Needs TLC.

Open to good offers.

07974 719841.

Commercial Vehicles

DIESEL

FIAT DOBLO CARGO

58 plate.

118,000 miles.

MoT October 18.

Diesel.

Great condition.

£1,400 ono.

07940 298102.

Wolverhampton.

Motorbikes

KAWASAKI GPZ500S MOT'd until
26th June. P reg. 30,920 miles.
Shock replaced about 500 miles
ago. £850.00 ono 07789173302



LIFAN STINGRAY 125

2012 plate, 12 months MoT,
1,000 miles, crash helmet, Givi
top box, bike chain, gloves,
water proofs, jacket, boots, size
8 - 10, bike cover.
£1,000.
07947 027395.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VESPA PX 125

2014

2,500 miles only

Mint condition.

£2,200.

01902 882737.

Scrap Vehicles

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded
that it is an offence under the Scrap
Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy
scrap cars/metal for cash.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price
for your unwanted
cars and vans
07903 549849
buyer will call

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 /
07831 245313

CARS WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE!

Runners/ Non Runners,
MOT Failures.
Can Collect. Cash Waiting!
Classic Cars, Scrap Cars,
Motoring Memorabilia and
Garage Tools Wanted!
Call 07790 032224
01902 823933

spares & accessories

Number Plates

WOLVES FOOTBALL FANS
Car Number plate, 11WW for
sale. Offer.
0207 7348391. 07508 879253.

Storage

WANTED
STORAGE FOR CLASSIC CARS
ie Barn, Unit or Garages.
All areas considered.
01902 238022 / 07734 412062.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878



Classified Ads

10

Personals

Personal

18+ SWAP NUMBERS with local
HOTTIES seeking Adult Fun!
01902 489 181/ txt: 07860 021670

DUDLEY MALE, 61

With own place and car, GSOH,
non smoker, young at heart
likes old pubs, walks, holidays
nice music and interesting
places.

Would like to meet a younger
female 50-61 for Friendship, fun
and company that will hopefully
lead to a relationship.

Attraction is important, would
like a photo, will return.

Box Number P21190 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

GENUINE, ATTRACTIVE, SLIM MAN 55.

Caring. GSOH.
Car owner. Solvent.
WLTm Genuine lady 40-60 for
evenings, days out and
friendship.

Genuine replies only.
Box Number P21162 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

RESPECTABLE LADY

EARLY 60'S
WLTm Gentleman 58 - 70.

Must be solvent.

Looking for friendship / possible
relationship.

Box Number P21191,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1ES.

RESPECTABLE MALE

GSOH. No ties, non smoker,
solvent, classic car owner, nice
home.

Seeks respectable attractive
female, 30-55, friendship /
possible relationship.

Photo appreciated, will return.

Box Number P21184,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MNA Media

DISTRIBUTION & LEAFLET SALES ASSISTANT

MNA Media are looking for a Distribution & Leaflet Sales Assistant to join our
Xpress Distribution team based at Wolverhampton.

The purpose of this role is to assist in the free distribution operation of all free printed MNA
titles, including leaflet sales, to maximise all revenue and sales opportunities. The role will also
ensure the effective organisation and administration, through third party distributors, of all free
letterbox distribution activity, in line with current ABC rules. Additionally, there is a focus on
continually exploiting new opportunities and exploring new markets.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant must possess a
full current driving licence as travel to customer sites is required, a company car will be
provided. As this is a customer facing role excellent communication and customer service skills
are required. A good working knowledge of all Microsoft products is essential.

The position is full time, 37.5 hours per week, working Monday-Friday.

Hyundai's showcase at London show

By James Parker

Hyundai's first hot hatchback was joined by the 2018 KONA B-SUV, at the London Motor Show held in London's ExCeL.

The powerful, agile and critically-acclaimed i30N is the first in a new line of high performance road cars to launch under the Hyundai N sub-brand.

It's powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine and is available with two power outputs: the standard model delivers 250 PS, while the Performance version boosts this to 275 PS.

Torque vectoring by braking is standard, while the 275 PS car has an Electronic Limited Slip Differential (e-LSD), larger brake discs, and an active variable exhaust system.

Distinctive

Hyundai's all-new Kona small SUV offers the latest in safety and convenience technology, combined with powerful and efficient powertrains, packaged in a distinctive design with eye-catching body colours which stand out from the crowd. Customers can also opt for a four-wheel drive programme on the top-of-the-range Kona Premium GT model offering a true SUV experience combined with a smooth and efficient seven-speed dual-clutch transmission.

The all-new Hyundai Kona is an important milestone for Hyundai as it continues its plans to launch 30 new models and derivatives in the coming years, including a further expansion into the fast-growing B-SUV segment with the Kona electric version also due to launch this summer.



Hyundai's all-new Kona

Both cars come with the latest equipment as standard, including the latest active safety features, such as Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, Lane Keeping Assist, and a Driver Attention Warning system to detect fatigued driving and benefits from Hyundai's comprehensive five-year unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance package.

The i30 N turned 'Petrol Heads' at the stand accompanied by the actors from its recently-launched advertising campaign and a racing simulator on its stand where the eventual leader over the course of the four day show won a Hyundai Motorsport World Rally Championship jacket.



The i30N is the first in a new line of high performance road cars to launch under the Hyundai N sub-brand

David Pugh, Hyundai Motor UK marketing director, added: "We are delighted to have had a presence at the London Motor Show this year so we could give the public a chance to come and see our exciting new products.

"Hyundai's new entry into the hot hatch segment, developed at the Namyang R&D Centre in Korea and honed on the famous Nürburgring, has already created a lot of excitement amongst consumers – and our very own 'Petrol Heads' from the i30 N's advertising

campaign were on hand to show people around the car. For those interested in the rapidly growing segment of small SUV models, there was the new Kona which offers versatility along with a cutting-edge combination of style, technology and performance."

HYUNDAI BIRMINGHAM

We've got the perfect car for you!
If you're tired of your car, you can rely on our family run business to look after you – call us today.

USED CARS FROM JUST £3995



CALL US
TO BOOK



MOTs Only £45

SERVICING From £99

BIG CHOICE – BIG SAVINGS

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
14-64	Hyundai i10 1.0 Premium 5dr, White, 18392mils.....		£6,885	
15-15	Hyundai i10 1.2 Premium SE 5dr, Black, 7778mils.....	£8,995	£8,485	£500
15-15	Hyundai i10 1.2 Premium Auto 5dr, White, 16877mils.....	£9,900	£8,585	£1,315
15-64	Hyundai i20 1.2 Active 5dr, Red, 18318mils.....		£6,785	
11-11	Hyundai i20 1.4 Comfort A/T 5dr, Black, 58545mils.....		£5,485	
15-15	Hyundai i20 1.4 SE 5dr, White, 17677mils.....		£8,485	
14-14	Hyundai i30 1.4 Active 5dr, Silver, 38709mils.....	£9,000	£8,285	£715
16-16	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi 136ps Premium 5dr, Silver, 16562mils.....	£12,000	£11,485	£515
15-15	Hyundai i40 Active Crdi 115ps Saloon, White, 12776mils.....	£9,900	£9,285	£615
12-62	Hyundai i40 Style Crdi 136ps Tourer A/T, White, 37798mils.....	£9,800	£9,000	£800
17-67	Hyundai Tucson 1.6 GDi SE Nav 2wd, Grey, 2199mils.....	£18,345	£17,885	£460
16-16	Hyundai i800 SE CRDi Manual, Silver, 18300mils.....	£16,955	£16,285	£710

NON FRANCHISE

16-65	Audi A5 S Line Black Edition 2.0 Tdi Quattro, White, 36061mils.....	£22,470	£21,485	£985
12-62	Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LT 5dr, White, 33814mils.....	£3,995	£3,785	£210
09-59	Mercedes – Benz C250 Sport A/T 4 Dr, Silver, 53984mils.....	£9,435	£8,485	£950
15 Reg	Nissan Juke Acenta Premium 1.2 DIG–T, Red, 15799mils.....	£10,245	£10,000	£245
14-14	Ssangyong Korando 2.0 CRDi ELX4 4x4 Manual, Blue, 44513mils.....	£9,495	£9,085	£410
13-13	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Turbo Black Edition 3 Dr, Black, 30500mils.....	£5,865	£5,685	£180

DEMONSTRATORS

17-67	i30 1.6 CRDi SE Nav Tourer, Silver, 7500mils.....	£16,985	£15,785	£1,200
18-67	i30 1.4 TGDl Premium Fastback, Grey, 5500mils.....	£17,985	£16,985	£1,000

Many more makes & models in stock, visit www.hyundaibirmingham.co.uk for full details

Hyundai Birmingham West Tel: 0121 434 6400
68 Hagley Road West, Birmingham, West Midlands B67 5EZ

www.hyundaibirmingham.co.uk

Opening hours: Mon – Fri: 8.30am–6pm, Sat: 9am–5pm, Sun: 10.30am–4pm

All offers subject to stock availability, terms and conditions. Details correct at time of publication, E&OE.

Book NOW for
Service & MOT
on ALL Makes and
Models

Peugeot's Expert, refined and comfortable

By Sharon Walters

What's the best way to road test a van? Use it for its intended purpose and not just guess what it can actually achieve.

That's what I did with a Peugeot Expert LWB. I needed to transport my son's possessions over to his new flat in Berlin and made the journey in the Expert. And it was a wise choice. It was easy to load thanks to side (on both sides!) and rear doors and so easy to drive.

The Expert is a multi-award winner and is currently joint Medium Van of the Year in the 2018 What Van? Awards, the second time it has taken the joint award. It was praised for its versatility and fuel economy.

James Dallas, Editor of What Van?, said: "The Expert put Peugeot back in the medium van game when it burst onto the scene in 2016 and it remains the most versatile and economical product in its sector. Refined performance courtesy of excellent engines and transmissions combines with practical load-carrying capability. The competition is tough but the Expert is still on top!" And I entirely agree.

The Peugeot Expert is available in three overall lengths; Compact, Standard and Long, offering floor lengths between 2.16m and 4.02m long. According to model, the Expert offers a maximum gross payload of 1,498kg. Body options include panel van, crew van and platform cab with a choice of trim levels from S, Professional and Professional Plus.

There are generous equipment levels with all panel van models getting a full height steel bulkhead, twin sliding side doors and twin unglazed rear doors. Standard safety equipment includes electronic stability control, remote central locking and driver and



So easy to load with dual sidedoors and rear door



The Peugeot Expert is a multi-award winner

passenger airbags. In the cab, the driver's seat is height, rake and reach adjustable and includes lumbar adjustment and a fold down armrest. A dual passenger seat with storage tray is also standard, with cruise control with variable speed limiter, front electric windows and a full size spare wheel. All models also come with DAB digital radio, Bluetooth connectivity, a USB socket and audio jack with a 12-volt power point in the cabin.

My LWB, essential for the furniture that had to be taken along with son's library of books, was the Professional Plus trim which has a wider range of equipment including air conditioning, rear parking sensors, electrically

adjustable and heated door mirrors, Moduwork front passenger bench seat with load-through bulkhead, as well as storage space below the seat. Professional models also have an alarm. Automatic lights and windscreen wipers are part of the package along with a Peugeot Connect Radio, 7-inch touchscreen, Mirror Link for enhanced smartphone connectivity and coffee break alert.

The entire package for the Professional Plus is practical with a spacious load area that's, square, and easy to access through the sliding doors on both sides. It's also lined with tough plastic which means its more resistant



The entire package for the Professional Plus is practical with a spacious load area that's, square, and easy to access

to water damage, and it's also easier to slide goods around inside, as I discovered.

It also has a relatively plush interior for van man/woman and looks classy.

There's a neatly-styled dashboard with smart dials and gauges that are all easy to read. There's room for three across the front bench, and if you want you can specify two individual captain's chairs.

There are a few engine options available for the Expert and mine was the extremely refined 2.0litre BlueHDi 180 mated to a responsive six-speed automatic gearbox. This van easily coped being packed to the roof and made light eight of the long route across Holland

and through Germany to Berlin. It cruised comfortably along European motorways with plenty in reserve for emergencies and was easy to park with the Park Assist package which included 180 degree camera with front and rear parking sensors. And the ride was first class, laden or not, with little wind or road noise

The Expert certainly does deliver the goods for van customers.

● Peugeot Expert Professional Plus Long BlueHDi 180, £28,515. Car tested with extras of automatic air con, Connect Nav, Driver Assist Pack, Head-up Display, lane departure and grip control, £35,173

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MOTURING

Express & Star

New M5 Competition with 616bhp released by BMW

The standard BMW M5 is no slouch, but the Bavarian brand has taken things up a notch with the release of the new M5 Competition.

The Competition is the most hardcore and performance-focused variant of the M5 yet, and boasts increased power and performance plus a reworked suspension setup to ensure it's even more impressive in the corners.

Increased

The engine – still a 4.4-litre twin-turbocharged V8 – has had its power increased to 616bhp from 592bhp, making it the most powerful road-going BMW ever made. Torque is unchanged at 750Nm, but BMW has managed to spread it across a wider rev range, with peak torque now available from 1,800-5,800rpm. All that power is still delivered through an eight-speed automatic gearbox and the rear-biased xDrive all-wheel-drive system.

The key performance figures have improved slightly over the standard M5 and remain deeply impressive – 0-60mph is dealt with in 3.1 seconds and the 0-200km/h (124mph) sprint time has dropped from 11.1 seconds to 10.8 seconds.

That's faster than its main rival from Mercedes.

On the suspension front, BMW's dropped the already low M5 by a further 7mm and stiffened the springs by ten per cent.

The rear anti-roll bar has also been firmed up, while increasing the camber of the front wheels and adding new mounts to the front anti-roll bar,



The first deliveries of the new M5 are due in September

toe links and engine produces, BMW claims, a more precise and direct steering feel.

The M5 Competition is the first of its type to be marketed as a standalone model. Previous iterations have been named 'Competition Pack' and acted more as a trim level or an optional package.

In keeping with its new standalone ethos the Competition receives a visual upgrade to mark it out. The Competition-specific exhaust features black chrome tips, which are mirrored in the 'Shadow Line' trim.

This replaces chrome with gloss black on the grille surround, side gills and window surrounds. The interior sees bespoke mats and new graphics for the infotainment.

BMW has not yet confirmed prices for the new M5 Competition. The previous M5's Competition Pack was priced £6,700 above the standard model, so expect prices for the new Competition to be just under £100,000.

First deliveries take place in September.



From left, Jake White, Charlie Barnett, Adam Maberley and Bob Prince from East Park Wolves



From left, Chris Jukes, Paul Heard, Lee Kemp and Brandon Whetton from Wednesfield Aces

Cycle speedway club on track to host the world

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"We feel the profile of the club has been boosted and we have shown we can handle such a big event."

HAVING successfully hosted the cream of European cycle speedway, East Park Wolves are now aiming to make their mark on the world stage.

The club, which operates from the Wolverhampton park of the same name, will launch a bid to bring the 2021 World Championships to the city.

It comes after the club successfully hosted the European Championships, attracting big crowds as the best riders on the continent went wheel-to-wheel over three days of thrilling action.

East Park Wolves chairman Albert Bentley said: "It was an absolutely brilliant weekend for the club. It was a great three days of racing."

Boosted

"We feel the profile of the club has been boosted and we have shown we can handle such a big event. It was a massive achievement for all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to push the club on. The only bigger event in the sport than the Europeans is the worlds, so that is logically the next step."

The club has now launched a funding drive in order to build the permanent toilet block required for their bid to be successful.

Bentley said: "We will need about £10,000 to build the toilets by the track and make the other improvements needed, such as a covered pitlane."

"To many people 2021 will feel a long way off but we need to start planning now. Our bid will be lodged



Action from one of the heats at the Cycle Speedway European Championships at East Park

with British Cycling and they will make the final decision. I think we tick a lot of boxes."

Appetites were whetted by the success of the European Championships, which were won by Czeszochowa after a close fought Grand Final which saw the Polish rivals edge out their much fancied domestic rivals Leszno in the final heat. Local pride was delivered by Wednesfield Aces, who took the final place on the podium ahead of the third of the Polish triumvirate, Torun.

The Aces, led by junior world champion and former East Park youth ace Brandon Whetton, had qualified second behind Leszno in the semi-finals. Torun claimed victory in the other semi-final, ahead of Czeszochowa.

Yet it was the latter who would be crowned champions at the end of the day, former world No.1 Marcin Szczymanski sealing the deal by winning the last race of more than 200 staged over the course of the tournament.

"We were treated to some excellent racing," said

East Park head coach Bob Prince. "Czeszochowa were deserved winners in the end. They were not the favourites at the start but they rode smartly."

"There were a number of other good performances. It was great to see Wednesfield in the final and being led by a rider who learned his trade at East Park."

"Aside from two or three Australian riders, what we saw was the best guys in the business going wheel-to-wheel. There are not many who can live with them when they are on their game."

"Strength in depth always tells. There are four riders in a team and a reserve. Over a busy weekend, you need everyone to contribute."

"A lot of hard work went into it from the club's perspective and it has helped raise our profile. If we can improve the facilities the way we want, with the new toilet block and covered pits, it will make our track among the best in the sport."

To ride or volunteer with East Park Wolves visit eastparkwolves.webs.com or, to offer sponsorship, call Albert Bentley on 07814 641367.



East Park Wolves Chairman Albert Bentley



Teams compete at the European Championships

Tennis legend Ann returns for Classic

ONE of Britain's greatest ever tennis players joined a host of other female tennis stars from her home city to look ahead to the Nature Valley Classic Birmingham.

Former British No 1 Ann Jones, who won eight Grand Slam titles during an illustrious career, was at the Edgbaston Priory Club – the venue for the women's Classic – with Birmingham's current British Under-18 champion Lillian Mould.

Jones, from Kings Heath, has a long association with the tournament, which is now in its 38th year. She played an important role in getting it onto the international WTA (Women's Tennis Association) circuit and her contribution was recognised in 2012 following the £5 million refurbishment of the venue when the new centre court was named after her.

The line-up for this year's tournament, which takes place between June 16-24 features reigning Wimbledon champion Garbiñe Muguruza, five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova and British star Johanna Konta.

Expert referee Wiley back in black at HQ

ALAN Wiley refereed plenty of big games during his stint with the whistle and has now agreed to come out of retirement to take on what could be his toughest test of all – officiating two teams of referees!

The Burntwood whistle-blower will be in charge of a charity match at the Birmingham FA County headquarters on Sunday, June 3. The fixture has been organised by The Whistle Foundation – a group of four referees who have taken on the task of staging a match each year to raise funds for various charities.

This year's game is in memory of former referee Richard Eades, who died last year, with the proceeds going to Smile for Joel, a charity set up in honour of Saddlers fans Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans who were killed in the Tunisia terror attack in 2015.

Jamie Lunn, Ajay Sharma, Greg Rollason and Matt Bond are the fab four who got the ball rolling last year with a match at Wolves' training ground which helped raise £1,800 for St John Ambulance.

More Games events for the Black Country

THE Black Country could play host to more sports at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, it has been revealed.

Beach volleyball and archery have been suggested as possibilities for the region when the competition arrives in the West Midlands in four years' time.

Most of the events will be centred around the host city Birmingham, but some will be staged further afield including swimming and diving, which will be held at a newly-built aquatics centre in Smethwick. Cycling events could also be held at Cannock Chase.

A report on the Games from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership has now revealed beach volleyball and archery could be brought to the Black Country if it is confirmed they will be among sports at the competition.

It will be seen as a boost by local politicians and sports leaders who have been keen to expand the Black Country's role in the Birmingham Games.



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Rutter gets on podium before TT

MICHAEL Rutter rolled back the years to secure a stunning 32nd podium at the North West 200.

Using all his experience around the Northern Irish road circuit, the 46-year-old brought his Bathams BMW home in third place during the opening superbike class race.

The Brierley Hill-born rider also set a new personal best lap, averaging 122.162mph around the 8.9-mile circuit, on Saturday.

Race winner Glenn Irwin opened up a sizeable lead but the battle for second saw five riders dicing for podium places.

Rutter finished fourth on track but was promoted to third after a five-second time penalty for Alastair Seeley. He said: "I was delighted to get on to the podium and I wasn't sure where I'd finished to be honest as it wasn't clear if Alastair had picked up a penalty or not."

"I'd have been happy with fourth as I felt like I rode well and the bike was working well too, so to finish on the podium again was a real nice bonus. We were in contention throughout though and while it was a hard race, we deserved a good finish."

Rutter suffered gearbox issues in the second superstock race of the meeting, getting home 13th – nine places worse than the first superstock race last Thursday. The feature seven-lap superbike race was the final battle of the day and Rutter – who heads to the Isle of Man TT races this week – came home seventh after a six-way battle for second place.

Tight at the top of league

THE top four teams in Birmingham League Division 1 extended their winning streak and remain locked together at the top of the table on 65 points, 17 points clear of fifth placed Bridgnorth, who were one wicket winners over Halesowen at Cricket Meadow.

A patient unbeaten 80 from opening batsman Jamie Harris steered Halesowen to 185-7, helped by an unbeaten 40 from Masharraf Shazad after the visitors had slumped to 110-7 and then 136-8 before 59 from Tom Weaver turned the tide. He fell with four required to win but skipper and number 11 batsman Sam Whitney hit the first and only ball he faced – the last ball of the contest – for six.

Himley brushed aside Bromsgrove. After collapsing to 60-7, a battling unbeaten 90 from Jack Taylor took Bromsgrove to 187 all out in the 49th over. Taylor and Tom Hill (33) added 105 for the eighth wicket, while Adam Finch took 4-42 and Stuart Wedge 3-18. In reply, Oliver Westbury compiled an undefeated 81 as Himley cantered to an eight-wicket win.

Lions ace Osama hungry for success



Euro mission for rising star Osama

OSAMA Mohamed is flying the flag for Lions Boxing Club this week as he bids to conquer Europe.

The talented 14-year-old from Halesowen is taking part in the Schoolboy European Games in Bulgaria. The Windsor High School pupil is also creating a spot of history by becoming the first boxer from the Dudley-based club to fight on the international stage.

Two-time Midlands Area champion Mohamed, who will box in the under-48kg class, earned his England call after reaching the National final last year.

Coach Kevin Dillon believes it's just reward for the all-action fighter's dedication. He said: "I call him my little Nigel Benn but he didn't know who Nigel Benn was! I told him to look him up on YouTube."

Osama is a front foot fighter who doesn't leave his opponents alone and is powerful with both hands.

"I think he could do well in the competition but whatever happens, it's a great achievement. As a club we have had Connor Jones and Andrew Price fight for England in the Three and Four Nations but Osama is the first to represent England internationally."

TROPHY HOPES DEALT A BLOW

CRADLEY'S National Trophy hopes are hanging in the balance after their first defeat of the season.

Heathens slipped up 49-40 at the hands of fellow homeless club Coventry at Monmore on a night of tension and drama on Monday.

The absence of brilliant teenager Drew Kemp was too much for Heathens to cope with, which is clearly a concern going forward as he will also miss the trip to Buxton on Sunday.

New signing Alfie Bowtell did a fine job on debut for the Motor Market Heathens with 12+3 from his six outings but there were too many weak links in the home side.

Kyle Bickley held off former Heathens skipper Jon Armstrong for an important win in heat 12 to keep Cradley within five of the visitors. When the brilliant Connor Mountain passed Heathens skipper Adam Roynon in heat 13 it was a crushing blow for Will Pottinger's men.

Victory was assured for Coventry when former Heathens title winner Danny Phillips secured a brilliant win ahead of Jason Edwards with Jamie Halder third to go seven points up with one to go.

Disappointing

Heathens co-promoter Nigel Pearson said: "With us already missing a key rider like Drew Kemp it's obvious we needed the remaining lads to step up to the plate."

"It's disappointing to lose but there were some positives and Jason Edwards impressed us particularly, as well as Alfie Bowtell on debut."

"I thought Will Pottinger did everything right, his programme changes were spot on and I don't think he could have done anything more than he did."

"Coventry were the better all-round side and I congratulate them for that. They fully deserved their win."

"It means we are in a real battle for qualification for the final now. We cannot afford to be a four-man team and we must do better."

State-of-the-art pitch opens



Jody Craddock, Councillor Dave Tyler and Pete Thompson with All Stars Paul Jones, Colin Taylor, Mel Eves, Nigel Quashie and Shane Taylor

THE beautiful game is looking better than ever in Dudley after the opening of a new £640,000 artificial football pitch at the Dell Stadium.

The floodlit 3G playing surface was officially opened by the Mayor of Dudley last week at an event that included a match between Wolves All Stars and Dudley Town FC, led by Jody Craddock and Pete Thompson respectively.

The pitch cost around £644,000 – made up

of £543,927 funding from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund, which is delivered by the Football Foundation, and £100,000 from Dudley Council.

The investment is in addition to the local authority's commitment to invest £24.5 million in wider leisure services across the Dudley borough, which also includes plans for a new leisure centre in Dudley.

Knockout reception for young boxer



Councillor Dave Tyler with Sahil Khan

A RISING star of the amateur boxing scene was guest of honour at a knockout civic reception in Dudley to celebrate his success. Sahil Khan, a pupil at Hillcrest School, trains at Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton and has become one to watch in the sport, qualifying for the European Championships, in Russia, in October.

Last weekend Dudley and England's Sahil Khan took gold in the Junior and Schools Three Nations boxing tournament in Scotland with victory over Scotland's David Quinn, when Khan's stylish performance earned him a unanimous win. Led by Coach Amanda Coulson the 28-strong Team England came away with 18 gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

Outgoing Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, in one of his final civic functions before ending his year, held a reception to celebrate Dudley teenager Sahil's previous success in becoming a National Junior Boxing Champion in his weight division.

Neal gets his fourth title bid moving

MATT Neal finally got his bid for a fourth British Touring Cars Championship title moving in the right direction after picking up his first win of the season on Sunday.

The Stourbridge race ace qualified on pole at Thruxton and held that position all the way to the chequered flag in the first of three races.

He followed that up with a third-placed finish in race two and eighth in the final reverse-grid race.

That catapulted Neal in his Halfords Yuasa Racing Honda Civic Type R up the standings from 17th to sixth, 28 points behind leader Adam Morgan.

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